



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*June 2024*

*Volume 6, Issue 6*

## President's Message



Brothers,

Thanks to all of you who attended our State Board meeting in Columbus on May 18th. We had a very good meeting with a lot of important information discussed. As I stated at the meeting, the most important part

of the meeting to me, are the reports of what each Division is doing and relating that information to the other Presidents. We need to share our successes so we can implement them in other Divisions around the State.

Please make sure to send in your delegate counts for the AOH National Convention to State Secretary Pete Chrystal. He sent out an email last in May asking for this information. Even if no one from your Division is attending, please send the form in. We need to have an accurate count of Ohio delegates attending the convention.

Brothers, if you have not done so yet, please forward your Division meeting time and date to our State Webmaster Marc Wolnitzek ([marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com](mailto:marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com)) so the information can be posted on our Ohio AOH website.

Brothers, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication in making our Order grow and keeping our Catholic faith and Irish heritage alive.

In Motto,

Denny



## Chaplain's Comments



I have a degree in Medieval History, and I have found it has complimented my ministry well when I need to do research for a homily. Although this is from the modern period, I would like to share an excerpt from a paper I ran across that was written by Ellen Beck, under the pseudonym; Magdalen Rock, a regular contributor to Irish Catholic periodicals in the early twentieth century,

“When the Irish saints honored by the Church in June are mentioned, most persons thoughts go back to Columba, the Columkille whose quaint sayings and prophetic utterances are household words in the Land he loved so well, and parted from in penance sore. The Saint was the great-great-grandson of the famous warrior, Niall of the Nine Hostages, and both his parents were of royal blood. He was born at Gartan, in Donegal, in the year 521, and baptized by a priest who was for some years his tutor. Once he had acquired some rudimentary knowledge, he entered the monastic school of Moville, which was quite near-by his native place. Under Saint Finnian he made rapid progress, and in due time received the diaconate. Even then God gave him the gift of miracles ; it is related by Adamnan that once when wine was required for the Holy Sacrifice, the miracle of Cana was repeated at his prayer.

From Moville Columba passed to the Monastery of Clonard, ruled by another Finnian, whose fame as a teacher had drawn many students to the monastery. About the year 546 he was advanced to the Priesthood, and he also studied under St. Mobhi, and is supposed to have visited the Arran Islands. He founded monasteries at Kells, Durrow, and Derry, and got the length of Tours in a proposed journey to Rome and Palestine; but for some reason: he returned to Ireland without seeing the scene of the Crucifixion or praying at the shrines of the Apostles. He brought with him a copy of the Gospels from the tomb of Saint Martin.

Readers of the next important event in Columba's life must remember that he had not then the wisdom and

*Continued on Page 2*

### Chaplain's Comments, cont.

sanctity of after years and that he possessed an ardent and impulsive temperament. In Clonard was a much-prized treasure, a splendid volume of the Scriptures, corrected by St. Jerome. Columba desired to make a copy of the book, but the Abbot refused him permission.

It chanced that Finnian was obliged to leave the monastery for a short time, and in his absence, Columba entered his cell and made a perfect copy of the treasured book. It was night when the Abbot came back, and he was surprised to see his cell brilliantly lighted. On entering, he beheld Columba finishing his task in the midst of a divine radiance. Finnian withdrew, and on the morrow, Columba confessed his fault. Finnian, however, insisted on holding the copy; Columba insisted that the copy belonged to him; finally, the matter was referred to the King of Tara, who decided that as the calf went with the cow, so the copy should go with the Psalter. Columba complained to his kinsmen so effectively that the Clan O'Donnell raised their war-cry. At the Battle of Cooldrevny the northern clan was victorious, and the coveted book won. Soon Columba was filled with remorse. His confessor, Saint Molaise, judged him hardly, and his penance was exile from Ireland. In pagan lands souls equal to the lives lost on the battleground in Sligo might be won to God.

Writers of various nationalities, writers Catholic and Protestant, have since the days of Bede and Adamnan, told of Columba's marvelous work. When the frail curragh containing the Saint and his twelve companions found difficult anchorage at the little island of Iona, the King of Dalriada, who was, it is said, related to Columba, bestowed the rude islet on the exiles. Soon they had erected a wattled church, refectory and tiny cells, and begun their missionary labors in Dalriada. When three years had sped, Columba, accompanied by Saints Comgall and Canice, opened their campaign in the country of the Picts, and sought an interview with King Brude at his palace near Inverness. The king heard of their coming, and closed his gates against the strangers; but when Columba made the Sign of the Cross the barred gates flew open, and the astonished monarch listened to the speech of the missionaries, and was, with many of his chief men, baptized. Permission was given to Columba to begin his life-work among the inhabitants of the rude, northern land, and the king confirmed his title to Iona.

From that barren island, three miles long by one-and-a-half broad, missionaries went north and south. Columba was never idle. When not engaged in preaching and teaching, his artist fingers were busy copying and transcribing, or he was engaged in hard manual labor or in prayer. His austerities were severe, and were not

mitigated as old age came on. He was at work copying when death came, but he managed to crawl to the midnight service, and, after receiving the Holy Viaticum, passed away before the altar. He was buried in the monks' cemetery, but later his remains were conveyed to Ireland and placed in the grave of Patrick and Brigid."

From the excerpt, we can see that St. Columba did not always act with prudence, temperance, or in an unselfish manner. Quite to the contrary. As it is stated above, *he had not then the wisdom and sanctity of after years and that he possessed an ardent and impulsive temperament.*

Well, my brothers, how many of us can describe our youthful endeavors in the same way? I certainly can. This shows us that the saints were human too. They were just like you and me, with similar wants, similar needs and similar sins.

This should give us hope! It is not too late for any of us to become a saint. Is that not what we are called to strive for in our lives? We are called to be Christ-like and follow Jesus in word and deed. That is one thing the saints have in common. They may be from different places, different times and different backgrounds, but they all understood that the way to perfection was to follow the example that Jesus provided in the way He lived His life on Earth.

We have the life of Jesus and the life of the saints, like St. Columba, St. Patrick and St. Brigid to show us the way to live our lives. Let's work together to help one another on our quest to become saints. We do our best work brothers in Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity. Let the Hibernian brotherhood lead us down the path to sainthood, and maybe we can be examples for others as they look to find a saint to model their lives after.

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](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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

### Veteran Affairs Report

1. Veterans and their families typically require a copy of the veteran's DD214 to access services and benefits . The local VA office informs and helps veterans in this regard. The following websites may prove helpful prior to contacting the VA , concerning benefits for the veteran, or his family at his death. (Your DD214 , I suggested, should be attached to your will, or other important papers.)
  - to get a copy DD214 :<https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
  - For families to submit an emergency request for military records for Veterans Burial/ Funeral expenses:
    - <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/emergencies>
  - Or phone (long wait times) 314-801-080
  - 
  - Information on Military funeral honors benefit for Veterans:
    - <https://www.usa.gov/military-funeral-honors>
  - Military Funeral Honors Directory, search by State , listed by branch of service
  - <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/military-funeral-honors-directory/>
  - Army 502-624-6051, Marine Corps 866-826-3628, Navy 866-203-7791 Air Force/ Space Force 937-257-8964 Coast Guard 216-402-6936, or 314-606-6792
  - 
  - Information on eligibility for burial in a VA National cemeteries
    - <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/>
  - There are five National Cemeteries in Ohio. Two have listed 'Open' Burial Space: Dayton National Cemetery (937) 268-2221. Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery (330) 335-3069.
  - <https://www.cem.va.gov/find-cemetery/state.asp?STATE=OH>
  - VA funded Cemetery , in Columbus , Ohio Veterans Home Cemetery (419) 625-2454
2. Funeral Directors will usually help families get Veteran benefits upon a veteran's passing. However, sometimes a funeral home is not used:

I was in Columbus a couple years ago and at memorial service for a fellow Marine, who was a factor in me joining the Corps. His son was a Marine. He had a couple of tables displaying his love for the Marines. Unfortunately, there were no official funeral honors given to him at the memorial service.

Doug Gerrard  
 Veteran's Affair Chair  
 513-615-7469  
 Dpgerrard@aol.com

### 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

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



There are many interesting twists and turns in Irish history. If a moment in history had been different, how would that have changed Irish history? With some of these moments we can only speculate.

One story in Irish history prompts many questions and few answers – it was the reported meetings between Michael Collins, the Irish revolutionary leader, and T. E. Lawrence (AKA Lawrence of Arabia). There is not much available on the meetings, but there is much speculation regarding what may have transpired had history been different.

Thomas Edward Lawrence was born out of wedlock in Tremadog, Wales, in August 16, 1888 to Sir Thomas Chapman, an Anglo-Irish nobleman from County Westmeath, and Sarah Junner, a Scottish governess. Chapman had left his wife and family in Ireland to live with Junner, and they called themselves Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence. In 1896, they moved to Oxford, England where Lawrence attended high school. In 1907–1910 he studied History at Jesus College. Between 1910 and 1914 he worked as an archaeologist, chiefly at Carchemish, in what is now Syria.

Soon after the outbreak of World War I he volunteered for the British Army and was stationed in Egypt. In 1916, he was sent to Arabia on an intelligence mission and quickly became involved with the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), serving, as a liaison to the Arab forces. Turkey was allied with Germany during World War I.

Working closely with Emir Faisal, a leader of the Arab revolt, Colonel Lawrence participated in and sometimes led military activities against the Ottoman armed forces, culminating in the capture of Damascus in October 1918.

The scope and variety of his military activities and associations, and his ability to describe them vividly in writing, earned him international fame as *Lawrence of Arabia*. Lawrence's public image resulted in part from the reporting of the Arab revolt by American journalist Lowell Thomas, as well as from Lawrence's own book *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

The British and Lawrence had promised Emir Faisal that in return for Arab cooperation against the Turks, they would be given their own independent Arab state in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the Arabs, and Lawrence, found out that the British and French had conspired to divide up the Middle East. The secret Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) allocated to Britain control of areas roughly comprising the coastal strip between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan (the area then known as Palestine now the country of Israel), Jordan, and southern Iraq. France gained control of southeastern Turkey, Northern Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Friends say that Lawrence was always uncomfortable regarding the circumstances of his birth, but always considered himself Irish. He often spoke sympathetically regarding the Irish struggle for freedom. His attraction to things Irish was likely a combination of his Irish blood and dissatisfaction with England's treatment of the Arabs after the war. He once discussed the possibility of writing a book on the life of Roger Casement, but that never developed.

In December 1921 T. E. Lawrence was working in London under Winston Churchill in the Colonial Office and growing increasingly embittered with his desk job. He wanted to join the Royal Air Force; however, Churchill had repeatedly blocked his requests to do so. Michael Collins was leading the Irish negotiating team working on the Anglo-Irish Treaty, also in London. Winston Churchill was a participant in the negotiations on the British side. It is well known that during his time in London, Collins met and dined with many celebrities including artists, performers and writers.

Author Tim Pat Coogan in his book *Michael Collins: The Man Who Made Ireland* reported that Collins first met with T. E. Lawrence on December 3, 1921. Coogan noted that at the meeting Collins supposedly offered Lawrence a job as an IRA training officer in Ireland thinking that Lawrence would have made a great “flying column” commander.

The circumstances of how the initial meeting was set up are unknown, although John Smith Chartres, who served as one of Collins' secretaries during the negotiations, had previously met Lawrence in the Middle East when Chartres was working as British Munitions Minister during the war. In addition, Lawrence was good friends with Irish author George Bernard Shaw who Collins also socialized with in London. It is not clear if either of these men arranged the meeting, but it is not beyond speculation that one or both may have been involved.

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### State Historian's Report, cont.

Author Philip Knightly in his book *The Secret Lives of Lawrence of Arabia* recounts a possible second meeting between the two men that occurred in July 1922, a month before Collins was murdered. Where this meeting took place is unknown. This time Collins offered Lawrence command of a brigade in the Irish Free State army which was to assist in the invasion of Ulster.

In June 1922 Collins had complained to Churchill that Catholics in the six-counties were being attacked in violation of the 1921 Agreement. The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army attacked an IRA unit in the town of Pettigo in County Fermanagh and a group of B-Specials attacked a Catholic hospital in Belfast.

By July 1922 Collins was secretly sending arms to IRA units in the north and did have secret plans to invade the north. It would be logical to assume that Collins would be looking to recruit Lawrence at that time for additional leadership.

Lawrence apparently turned down Collins' offers to join the Irish struggle on both occasions. The thought of the "Deliverer of Damascus" serving in the Irish Free State army would certainly have been too much for Churchill. News of Collins' offer could well have been what finally persuaded him to allow Lawrence to join the Royal Air Force in August 1922. It is interesting to speculate how Irish history might have been different had Lawrence accepted and had Collins survived to implement his plan for the six-counties of Ireland.

As far as we know, Lawrence never involved himself with Ireland after that 1922 contact with Collins. Lawrence was in and out of the RAF, also serving in the British Tank Corps for a time and further colonial service in India. Returning to England in 1930 he rejoined the RAF and was instrumental in development of high speed rescue boats for the RAF.

At the age of 46, two months after leaving military service, Lawrence was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident near Wareham, England. A dip in the road obstructed his view of two boys on their bicycles; he swerved to avoid them, lost control, and was thrown over the handlebars. He died six days later on May 19, 1935. Lawrence's most famous quote is: "All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, to make them possible."

### State Organizer's Report

We appear to be in good shape on our open applications. If you need to canvas any applicants who have not responded, please do so as soon as you can. Give them a phone call to check on them; that may be all it takes to bring them in.

Festival season is upon us! Check out the National website ([aoh.com](http://aoh.com)), then go to "About the AOH", then scroll down to "Organizer Resources". You'll find several flyers, aids and the QR code that you can download and personalize. If someone is from an outlying area and farther than 60 miles from a division, have them apply online anyway and it will be routed to me for the At-Large membership program.

Thank you and enjoy the festivals you attend. Be sure to wear your AOH shirts!

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

### Division News

#### Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

Currently, we help Feeding Medina County at the Brunswick location on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

**FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY**  
Need Groceries? WE CAN HELP  
Contact Us 330-421-4816  
feedingmedinacounty.org

**2024 Food Distribution Schedule**

<b>JANUARY</b> 1/4 Lodi 1/11 Brunswick 1/18 Medina 1/25 Wadsworth	<b>FEBRUARY</b> 2/1 Lodi 2/8 Brunswick 2/15 Medina 2/22 Wadsworth	<b>MARCH</b> 3/7 Lodi 3/13 Medina 3/14 Brunswick 3/28 Wadsworth	<b>APRIL</b> 4/4 Lodi 4/11 Brunswick 4/18 Medina 4/25 Wadsworth	<b>BRUNSWICK</b> Grace Baptist Church 3450 Lazenby Road Brunswick, OH 44212 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
<b>MAY</b> 5/2 Lodi 5/9 Brunswick 5/16 Medina 5/23 Wadsworth	<b>JUNE</b> 6/6 Lodi 6/13 Brunswick 6/20 Medina 6/27 Wadsworth	<b>JULY</b> 7/3 Lodi 7/11 Brunswick 7/18 Medina 7/25 Wadsworth	<b>AUGUST</b> 8/1 Lodi 8/8 Brunswick 8/15 Medina 8/22 Wadsworth	<b>LODI</b> Hidden Hollow Camp 8672 Richman Road Lodi, OH 44204 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> 9/5 Lodi 9/11 Medina 9/12 Brunswick 9/26 Wadsworth	<b>OCTOBER</b> 10/3 Lodi 10/10 Brunswick 10/17 Medina 10/24 Wadsworth	<b>NOVEMBER</b> 11/7 Lodi 11/14 Brunswick 11/21 Medina 11/26 Wadsworth	<b>DECEMBER</b> 12/5 Lodi 12/12 Brunswick 12/18 Wadsworth 12/19 Medina	<b>MEDINA</b> Medina Fairgrounds 735 Lafayette Road Medina, OH 44256 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
				<b>WADSWORTH</b> Art Wright Stadium 280 Grandview Avenue Wadsworth, OH 44281 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Our own Dave Manley was named the Hinckley Citizen of the Year

#### Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

FFAI ROAD BOWLING EVENT was a huge success at Deer Creek State Park. We raised over \$3,000 on April 27th to put towards our next donation.



**HIBERNIAN GOLF CLASSIC!**

Shotgun Start Golf Outing Saturday, June 22nd supporting our Divisions Project St Patrick donation. Signup information at [www.patrickpearse.com](http://www.patrickpearse.com)

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

You are invited to Orlando, Florida



For online ROOM RESERVATION (\$125 + taxes) and EVENTS REGISTRATION please go to <https://orlandoirish2024.com>  
Events Registration through the Mail:  
This Form is for Convention events only. Please print neatly.  
(Does not include Hotel Registration.)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Division # \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Registration: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



**Catholic Action**

The month of June falls entirely within Ordinary time. Sunday the 2nd is dedicated to the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), a day which should assume more importance in the context of the ongoing Eucharistic revival and imminent National Eucharistic Congress which our bishops are encouraging.

**MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JUNE**

Justin, Martyr	Memorial	June 1
Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs	Memorial	June 3
Boniface, Bishop and Martyr	Memorial	June 5
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Solemnity	June 7
The Immaculate Heart of Mary	Memorial	June 8
Barnabas, Apostle	Memorial	June 11
Anthony of Padua	Memorial	June 13
Aloysius Gonzaga	Memorial	June 21
The Nativity of John the Baptist	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.

**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.

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## Catholic Action, cont.

### Moling, Bishop of Ferns (d. 697)

June 17

The Welshman Giraldus Cambrensis noted that books written by Patrick, Columba, Broccan, and Moling, whom he called The Prophets of Ireland, were extant in his day. Unfortunately, at least for Moling, these have vanished. Moling is said to have come from County Wexford, and to have been related to Leinster's royalty. After some time at Glendalough, where he took the monastic habit, Moling founded an abbey at Achad Cainigb. Moling is said to have lived for a while in a hollow tree and endured lengthy fasts. Later he succeeded St. Aidan as bishop of Ferns.

### Goban, Martyr (d.c. 670)

June 20

Goban, or Gobain, was a disciple of St. Fursey, accompanying him to East Anglia. Later, he went with St. Ultan to Gaul. After some wanderings, Goban established a hermitage on what is now Mont d'Ermitage, at the town of Saint-Gobain. The saint was beheaded by barbarian raiders.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

As they have for many years, members of Youngstown's Joseph Nalley Division took time in May to spruce up the resting place of many of our deceased Ursuline sisters in the diocesan cemetery. The Ursulines educated several generations of Catholics in the Youngstown area, including many of our Hibernians.

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

Fraternally, Pat Lally, 330-792-7135, lally8404@hotmail.com

## Father James Cassidy

Brothers,

I just read in the latest "Northeast Ohio Catholic" magazine where our member, Fr. James Cassidy passed away in March. Fr. Cassidy joined our division on April 23, 2014 at one of our clergy dinners. He was never able to make a meeting as he soon went to reside at Regina Health Center.

May he rest in peace, Joe Casey Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.



### FATHER JAMES M. CASSIDY

Auxiliary Bishop emeritus Roger Gries, OSB celebrated the funeral Mass for Father James M. Cassidy, senior priest, retired, on March 27 at Regina Health Center. Father Cassidy, 94, died March 24. Bishop Floyd Begin ordained him to the priesthood for service to the Diocese of Cleveland on May 20, 1961, in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Father Cassidy served as a parochial vicar of Annunciation Parish in Akron; Holy Name Parish in Cleveland; St. Adalbert Parish in Berea; St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Gates Mills; St. Mary Parish in Lorain; and St. Joseph Parish in Amherst. He also served as pastor of St. Edward Parish in Ashland from Feb. 8, 1980, until Aug. 31, 2010. In addition, he was moderator of the Ashland/Wayne/Medina Regional Council, NCCW. Father Cassidy retired on Aug. 31, 2010. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery in Valley City.

## Ohio Political Education and Immigration

Brothers, We are in the midst of the silly season, sometimes known as the election season. 2024 is a major election year; not only a Congressional election year, where ALL 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election, plus one-third of the U.S. Senate; but also ALL 99 members of the Ohio House of Representatives and half of the Ohio Senate (Statehouse). In addition to the legislative races, the big daddy contest will be for the Whitehouse. In Ohio, the U.S. Senate seat currently held by incumbent Sherrod Brown will be a marque race as well. It is during the silly season that we have the most opportunity to advance those causes important to the AOH.

The first and fundamental step to advance those causes is to ensure that our members and their families are registered to vote. Through voting we are able to exercise our influence and impact the membership of our legislative bodies that create policy and law. All Ohioans can go to [VoteOhio.Gov](https://VoteOhio.Gov) on the internet to both register to vote and request an absentee ballot application. One can register and get an absentee application at your local library as well.

This year Ohio has a special election for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which runs from Youngstown following the Ohio river down to Marietta. Republican Bill Johnson resigned to take the position of President of Youngstown State University, necessitating a special election.

The Special Election will be on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024; early voting has already started.

The Fall 2024 election will take place on **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024** (The feast day of Elizabeth, the mother of John The Baptist). The polls will be open from 6:30AM to 7:30PM.

*The registration deadline for the Fall election is October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **Early voting, both absentee (by mail) and in-person voting, starts Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*** One must fill out and mail in an application, available at the [VoteOhio.Gov](https://VoteOhio.Gov) website, to request an absentee ballot. In person voting usually takes place at the offices of your County Board of Elections, one can just walk in and vote. Many folks find the easiest way to vote is to request an absentee ballot and have the time to review the ballot at your dining room table, and then drop off the ballot at the Board of Elections drive thru drop-off box which is available 24 hours a day. Every County BOE has its own drop-off box, you must use the County Office for which you live.

One suggestion: have voter registration forms and/or absentee application forms at your next meetings. This is a good reminder to folks and stresses the importance of exercising our precious franchise to Vote.

On immigration, one of the core issues of concern to the Ancient Order Hibernians, we went from zero to 90 miles per hour and back down to zero this year. After many years of stagnation in the area of immigration policy changes, much hope was present this past winter with the advent of a bi-partisan immigration bill. When President Biden sought passage of a bi-partisan foreign aid package to our brother & sister Catholics in Ukraine and to Taiwan & Israel, a group of House members said no foreign aid package until we have a domestic immigration bill. Much to the surprise of those House members, President Biden agreed to sign off on a strong, bi-partisan immigration bill which had been negotiated by hard right conservative senators John Thune (R-SD) and James Lankford (R-OK) along with Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn) and Sen Krysten Sinema (I-AZ). This was seen as the most comprehensive bill in a decade, offering a real chance to improve our broken

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## **Ohio Political Education and Immigration, cont.**

immigration system here in the U.S. However, despite a majority of Congress supporting the bill, House Speaker Johnson (R-La) would not bring it to a vote in the House of Representatives. Presidential candidate Donald Trump had intervened and asked his fellow Republicans to kill the bill. News reports at the time indicated that he did not want to take the immigration issue off the table and did not want to give President Biden a 'win'. While far from a perfect bill, it would have taken a huge step to bring resources and order to the U.S. Immigration system. With the expiration of Title 42, which was tied to the COVID Pandemic, border crossings have jumped. What has also changed over recent years is fewer folks are 'sneaking' across the border and more and more are seeking legal asylum or refugee status. Unfortunately, due to the lack of congressional action, the immigration courts are overwhelmed with court backlogs years long. It is a pretty crazy mess. The U.S. needs a bill that brings order to situation with the resources needed to increase border security AND provide adequate ways to adjudicate the merits of those seeking asylum where those who do not deserve asylum are deported and those that are deserving are integrated into being productive members of our community.

In our current system, folks are essentially left with only four passages to entry into the United States:

- 1) Diversity Lottery, only 0.2% are successful.
- 2) Refugee Status, only 0.1% are processed to successful status.
- 3) Family Sponsorship is capped at 226 thousand per year of 8.3 million waiting under this pathway.
- 4) Employer sponsorship sees success by 1/1,500 applications. The pathways to legal status are severely limited.

As previously shared, over 50,000 of the Undocumented are our fellow Irish brothers and sisters, they are left to live in the shadows, work under the table, be taken advantage of and live in constant fear of being deported. I had a good friend here in Cleveland, from County Mayo, who was a hardworking, well-loved member of our community for many years. One day he was here, the next day he was gone. He was stopped for rolling through a stop sign in Westlake, Ohio and taken to jail and turned over to U.S. Immigration the next day where he was deported and barred from returning to the United States for at least 10 years. He was separated from his family, his friends, his life as he knew it. A harsh reality.

Remember, the Irish immigrant, our grandparents, our family, was historically vilified and discriminated against as poisoning the blood of the pure American family. Insist that your U.S. Congressional candidates and Presidential candidates agree to support a comprehensive immigration bill.

Don't give into despair and assume there is nothing to be accomplished by comprehensive immigration legislation, or give into knee jerk calls to shut everything down, to turn our backs on American tradition and history. Here is some food for thought about things that could be done to fix our broken immigration system.

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