



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*May 2020*

*Volume 2 Issue 5*

## President's Message



Brothers All,

As I write this, it's almost May, and much of our Nation is still in lockdown mode. It's been a difficult couple of months for sure.

On the other hand, we (and especially I) have learned a lot, about ourselves and many other things. One of the big learnings for organizations, especially non-business organizations, is a new or renewed appreciation for the power of virtual collaboration.

In my business life, on a weekly if not daily basis, I lead or participate in virtual meetings with friends and colleagues across the globe. In the past week alone, I've been in "face -to-face" meetings with Asia, India, Egypt and Dubai, Europe, and Latin America. But oddly, it never occurred to me that we should perhaps use the same tools for our state organization right here across Ohio. Shame on me!

This has changed. Going forward, you're going to see some changes in how we conduct our Ohio State Board business. You're going to see a change in how our appointed committee chairs do outreach and collaboration with your Divisions, and their appointed chairs. You're going to see a single appointed chair responsible for our digital presence, with the two key pillars being virtual collaboration tools, and website/social media presence.

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



As Christians We live in Hope!

When so many of our St. Patrick celebrations in March were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I was saddened. But the stark reality of what we were facing as a nation and a world hit me only a few weeks later, as we entered into Holy Week. Celebrating Holy Week without a congregation was one of the saddest and oddest experiences I have had as a priest for nearly twenty seven years. Even knowing that potentially hundreds of parishioners (as it turns out, thousands!) were watching as we live streamed the Liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, it was surreal. I kept telling myself that the Paschal Mystery is broader and more powerful than what our ability to celebrate it together liturgically can convey. But I wasn't feeling that.

But as the adage goes, hope springs eternal. And as I put away my purple vestments to put on first the red vestments associated with the Passion of the Lord and finally the white and gold of Easter, so I found hope arising within my own heart, as well. The prophet Isaiah tells us, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." I forced myself to remember that last week as even in late April the warm breezes turned back into a cold north with, bringing snow which covered the tulips which adorn the parish grounds.

*Continued on Page 2*

**Chaplain's's Comments, cont.**

Our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, of course, lasts not one day but fifty. As I write this, we are only on day sixteen. And I am reminded even in the midst of an isolation which is becoming increasingly burdensome that the hope offered by the message of the Resurrection is as real today as it was on Easter Sunday itself. Our faith, as we read in the Letter to the Hebrews, “is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” It is because of our faith that we do not give in to despair. It is because of our faith that we continue to be people of hope—people who trust that God remains with his people even when we are aware only of his absence. It is because of our faith that we continue to get up each morning, conscious that God abides in our presence, loving us even when we feel unlovable, offering to take us by the hand when we feel lost and to lead us where we might not want to go, but where we will find the safety and the peace that only God can offer us.



*(photo taken by Colleen McNally Harris from the car window as I was driving through the countryside of County Antrim in the midst of a major storm in September of 2018)*

May God bless each and every one of you and your families as we continue to celebrate this season of Resurrection.

--Fr. John Keehner, State Chaplain



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[emcqu@aol.com](mailto:emcqu@aol.com)

**Washington** Thomas Binegar  
[binegarth@gmail.com](mailto:binegarth@gmail.com)

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[ruthannanddavid@gmail.com](mailto:ruthannanddavid@gmail.com)

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**Immigration** John Myers  
[johnmyers216@gmail.com](mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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

## Division News

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

The 4th Annual Irish Brigade Charity Beer Tour has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 6th. Ray and I are hopeful the quarantine we are currently living under will be over. Should you have a conflict with this date, please do get back to me so that I can arrange for your refund.

Dave Manley at 330-273-3118

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

274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

### *Tara Hall Presents*

Governor DeWine has issued an order to temporarily shut down all bars and restaurants in the State of Ohio as we prepare to face the spread of the Coronavirus in the US. Tara Hall will be closed for business until further notice.

### Joseph T. Nally, Sr. Div #6, Mahoning Co.

5110 Southern Blvd., Youngstown, OH 44512

The Major Degrees scheduled for April 25, 2020 have been postponed. See page 7.

Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey

[jjcasey973@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

## AOH/LAOH National Convention 2020 - Orlando

9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819, United States

Rosen Centre® Hotel

9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Tel: 1.800.204.7234 | Fax: 407.996.2659

Reservations: 1.800.204.7234

Contact Florida State President Ray Lynch

[irishyankeenut@gmail.com](mailto:irishyankeenut@gmail.com) for assistance

## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### **Father Matthew A. Scanlon, State Delegate (1876-1877)**

We tend to think of the men elected to serve as State President or State Delegate from Ohio between 1875 until the present day as being regular members of the Order (note: prior to 1894 the officer known today as the State President was known as the State Delegate); however, in only one known instance in Ohio, that officer was an ordained Catholic priest. His name was Father Matthew A. Scanlon.

Father Scanlon was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1830, the eldest in a family of three children. While he was still in infancy his parents moved to Pittsburgh and there he received his early education. He began his collegiate studies at St. Vincent's Seminary, near Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

He moved to Cleveland in 1856, and after remaining for a period of three months he began teaching in the cathedral school. He completed his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary, on Lake Street in Cleveland. After graduation he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Louis Amadeus Rappe, June 26, 1859 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Father Scanlon's first assignment as a priest was as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Akron, Ohio (Akron's first Catholic parish). He was assigned there in July 1859. Father Scanlon was responsible for building a new church to replace the original wood-frame church.

Under the leadership of Father Scanlon, ground was broken for the present church structure on February 1864. On March 17, 1864, the cornerstone was laid, thus beginning a connection with St. Patrick as a special patron of the parish.

Construction was interrupted by the Civil War, but resumed in 1866 and was completed for the first Mass to be celebrated October 20, 1867. One of the original stained glass windows in the church was donated by Father Scanlon in memory of his brother, Thomas Scanlon, who was killed at the Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5, 1862.

Father Scanlon remained at St. Vincent's for a period of fourteen years. In November 1873 he was transferred to St. Stephen Church in Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio. There he continued his labors and was responsible for the building of St. Stephen School. It is unknown when Father Scanlon first joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

During his assignment at St. Stephen's, there was at a meeting of the State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, held at Youngstown, Ohio on the September 12, 1876. Father Matthew A. Scanlon, of Niles, Ohio was elected as the State delegate for Ohio to complete the unexpired term of Patrick Dunphy of Cincinnati, who passed away in August 1876.

That meeting also produced a resolution, signed by Father Scanlon and 16 County Delegates that criticized the Catholic press for its unjustified attacks on the AOH regarding the activities of the alleged "Molly McGuire" in Pennsylvania. The resolution stated, "... from this date we will take no further action on their attacks, as we know them to be unfounded and defamatory to a body of men that respects the laws of our adopted country and are sincere, good Catholics." Father Scanlon served as State Delegate until 1877.

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### State Historian's Report, cont,

In 1880 Father Scanlon was transferred to Cleveland as pastor of Holy Family Church on Woodland Avenue. He at once set about the work of building St. Edward's church and rectory. The growth of the Irish Catholic community in the area during the late nineteenth century necessitated the construction of a larger church to serve the needs of the new immigrants.

More than 10,000 spectators packed Woodland Avenue for the laying of the church's cornerstone on April 27, 1885. Cleveland Bishop Richard Gilmour dedicated St. Edward Church on February 1, 1886 and renamed the parish St. Edward. Father Scanlon thus became the first pastor of St. Edward Parish.

Another notable connection with the AOH and Father Scanlon was the installation of an AOH stained glass window in St. Edward Church. St. Edward's church was demolished in 1976; however, Brother J. C. Sullivan discovered the existence of an AOH stained glass window there in 2005 and was able to locate the original marble window sill from the window. Although we do not know the subject of the window (likely St. Patrick), the inscription carved on the sill reads as follows: "This window was donated to St. Edward's Church by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the parish AD 1887."

Past AOH State Delegate, Father Matthew A. Scanlon died on Wednesday, February 22, 1899 after a brief illness. He was 69 years old. His funeral was held at St. Edward church on Monday, February 27, 1899. Bishop Ignatius F. Horstmann and over 100 Catholic clergymen of Cleveland and vicinity were present. Rev. Eugene O'Callaghan was the Mass celebrant. Rev. J. O'Connor preached the sermon and reviewed the life of the well-known priest. Father Scanlon is buried in St. John Cemetery in Cleveland where a stone memorial today stands over his grave.



In the exercise of his priestly functions Father Scanlon is held in high esteem for his many excellent qualities of mind and heart, and it is clearly demanded that honor be paid him in connection to the work of the church in Akron, Niles and Cleveland, as well as, his service to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Ohio. "His devotion and earnest zeal will live long in affectionate memory."

### Commodore Barry Medal



The AOH Ohio State Board is pleased to offer the Commodore John Barry medal to AOH Divisions for \$25. This medal is intended to be awarded to members for outstanding service or achievement. Each medal comes individually packaged in an attractive display case with a printed history of Commodore Barry.

Yours in our Motto,

*Mike McKenzie, Ohio State Board*

Mike McKenzie at: (330) 329 2652, [tmmckenzie31@gmail.com](mailto:tmmckenzie31@gmail.com)

### State Director's Report

With my planned event of a Major Degree Ceremony at Mahoning County Division 6 with the Tri Abhainn MDT of Pittsburgh on April 25<sup>th</sup> being cancelled , I am focusing it as a temporary set back and will reschedule once this pandemic has passed on. My goal was and still is to develop some interstate Hibernian bonding and bring together the Divisions in Sharon, Pa, Erie, Pa, Trumbull County, and our Division 6 and put together events where we can both meet and have fellowship but also share best practices and develop the Order in the Mahoning/Shenango Valleys.

In these crazy times, it is easy to lose your way and fall into a depression over the worst of times scenario. Rather than that, try to focus on the works of St. Patrick and recite his Breastplate prayer.

On a positive note, through my business travels, I met a fellow brother in New York last year and he turned me on to a guy in New Jersey that makes a sharp looking jacket. My home division, Mahoning County Division 6, just put in an initial order of 10 and we will be placing another order in the Spring.

Below are a few pictures of what it looks like. Our cost was about \$110 plus shipping. If you want to get more information on it, feel free to contact me at 330-518-9917 or [liamlehn@gmail.com](mailto:liamlehn@gmail.com)

In Motto,

Liam

Liam Lehn State Director



### Catholic Action

To All Hibernians:

The month of May is traditionally a month dedicated to Mary. This year May falls within the Easter season, the liturgical color being white, except on Pentecost Sunday, when it is red. The Ascension of the Lord, a solemnity and holy day of obligation, falls this year on May 21. Many dioceses of the United States transfer the Ascension to the following Sunday. As of this writing, most American dioceses remain in some version of a lockdown due to the pandemic, with Sunday and holy day Mass obligations suspended.

#### MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF MAY

Joseph the Worker	May 1	
Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor	May 2	Memorial
Matthias, Apostle	May 14	Feast
Bernardine of Siena	May 20	
The Ascension of the Lord	May 21	Solemnity
Pentecost Sunday	May 31	Solemnity

#### ISSUES

The Ohio legislature has not been in session but for a brief convening to deal with emergencies arising from the pandemic. The illness, and the state government's response, have elicited, and no doubt will continue to elicit, various disputes and issues, likely culminating at some point in legislation or judicial action. The State of Ohio has sought, unsuccessfully so far, to shut down abortion clinics as nonessential services during the pandemic. Another thorny issue is the intersection of the freedom of religious practice--not to mention other civil liberties--and executive quarantine measures.

We Hibernians need to remember to continuing supporting our local parishes and Catholic charitable activities, either financially or through volunteer efforts. Please remember Project Saint Patrick: our seminarians, like all students, are trying to carry on with their preparation, often remotely. We should check on neighbors and friends whom we know may be vulnerable for whatever reason. Stay connected: there are many web sources for Mass and devotions. In this month dedicated to Mary, perhaps praying the rosary is a practice we can all adopt.

Pat Lally  
330-791-7135  
lally8404@hotmail.com



## AOH Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal

Brothers,

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded to protect our clergy. What better way to support our clergy than supporting vocations? I am asking you to bring this Easter Appeal Packet forward and include it as part of your Division, County and State agendas in order to make the 2020 Easter Appeal for vocations a success. All scholarship dollars raised will support seminarians and religious vocations in local Hibernians dioceses.

In order to accomplish this, we need immediate assistance from your Division. Please fill out the enclosed **2020 Division Diocese Form** and include the name and mailing address for your Bishop and your Vocations Director. We need these forms returned as soon as possible so we can begin distribution of the Scholarship Applications. If your chaplain is a non-diocesan priest please contact me directly so we can include his Order in our process as well.

The goal of Project St. Patrick (PSP) during the Easter Appeal is to raise funds for \$500 scholarship awards for our Diocesan Seminarians and Religious. **We are asking every division to participate with a donation** to insure the success of PSP and demonstrate our commitment to our Holy Church. Remember, no donation is too large or too small. We are asking every division to set a minimum goal of \$500, which is the equivalent of one scholarship.

Each donation of \$500 or more creates a scholarship in the name of your Chaplain or anyone you believe is worthy of such recognition. The donating division will receive a certificate recognizing the honor bestowed on your Chaplain or other worth recipient. Donations of \$500 in memory of a deceased individual will also come with a certificate in memory of the honoree. These certificates will serve as an ongoing reminder of the work done by your Chaplains do or the service a deceased individual provided during his lifetime. Please make the most of the Easter Appeal and support vocations in the Catholic Church through Project St. Patrick.

In addition to the current Appeal, we continue our Prayer Card Program and ask Divisions, Counties, States, and individual members to participate in this throughout the year. As your Chairman, I look forward to working with you throughout my term.

God Bless,  
Vic Vogel, Project St. Patrick Chairman,  
51 Avondale Drive, Islip, New York 11751  
[victorjvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:victorjvogel@yahoo.com)

### Remember:

- 1) Turn in Diocese Form immediately so your local Seminarians will have an opportunity to apply for a Project St. Patrick Scholarship.
- 2) Make Project St. Patrick a priority for the Easter Season. Please set a goal to support vocations.
- 3) Name Recognition Scholarships are available for donations of \$500 or more. Raise \$1,000 and give two Name Recognition Scholarships.
- 4) Honor your Chaplain with a Name Recognition Scholarship. Honor deceased members or your Hibernians of the Year with a name recognition scholarship.
- 5) Name Recognition Scholarships may be turned in as PSP donations at any time. During the Annual Easter Appeal, we focus on donations for Vocation Scholarships.
- 6) Utilize Project St. Patrick Prayer Cards throughout the year.



**Project St. Patrick - Support Vocations**

Vic Vogel, Chairman  
51 Avondale Drive Islip, New York 11751 victorjvogel@yahoo.com

**2020 Diocese Information Form Proper Email Required  
Fill Out and Return Immediately**

Diocese Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishops Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocations Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocations Director's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Division Six Digit Number:

Division Name:

State#

County#

Division # \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Catholic Clergy for 184 Years!**



**2020 Project St. Patrick "Support Vocations" Donation Form**

**Vic Vogel, Chairman**

**51 Avondale Drive Islip, New York 11751 [victorjvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:victorjvogel@yahoo.com)**

**General Donation:**

Please accept our donation to the Project St. Patrick Scholarship Fund.

**Name Recognition Scholarship: \$500 minimum donation** Please Honor our **Chaplain** with this Scholarship Donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Honor this **individual** with this Scholarship Donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Honor the **Memory of this individual** with this Scholarship Donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation: Amount\$** \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name & Position** \_\_\_\_\_

**Division#** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_ **State.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone: ( )** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**EMail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address to send Recognition Certificate:**

**Attn:** \_\_\_\_\_ -

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your donation Payable to " *Hibernian Charities*" and mail to Vic Vogel

**Supporting Catholic Clergy for 184 Years!**

## State Organizer's Report

Brothers,

I just wanted to give an update on our work in attempting to get a new division formed in Stark County (Canton area). Our State Chaplain, Fr. John Keehner, Tom Fickes and I met, just before the pandemic took away our ability to get together. Our informal meeting took place on Friday, March 6th at St Paul's rectory in North? Canton. Fr. John offered to send a letter to all the parishes in the county, asking that a notice be placed in their Sunday bulletins, letting parishioners know we were wanting to start a division and giving a short AOH history. Tom had the names of a few men in the area that might be interested in joining.

A couple weeks later I made contact with a gentleman who was interested in re-joining the AOH and now lives in Canton. He will assist in getting more interest moving.

As soon as this pandemic is behind us and things are safe to move forward, we will again pursue this, but until then we will keep trying to get the word out. If anyone knows of friends or family in Stark County who might be interested, have them get with me at [qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com).

**Joe Casey**

**AOH State Organizer**

## State Director/State FFAI Chairman's Report

### **NIALL MURPHY RECOVERS**

After nearly a month at Antrim Area Hospital due to Covid-19 complications, Belfast solicitor, Niall Murphy is recovering. Murphy, 43, spent 16 days in a medically induced coma and was placed on a ventilator after being admitted on March 25. The father-of-three sympathizes with his family who, at one point, was told his chances of survival were 50/50. He expresses deep gratitude to the medics who cared for him.

"These people are the equivalent of the firemen who rushed into the Twin Towers on 9/11 yet we have asked them to confront this crisis with insufficient PPE," he said. "That's a disgrace. We should be ashamed at the fact that nurses had to strike in the darkness of winter for pay parity."

Murphy is a partner at KRW Law and is well known for his involvement in several high-profile cases. He is also vice-chairman of Naomh Eanna GAA club in Glengormley and chairman of Club Aontroma.

### **SINN FEIN SPEAKS OUT**

In a Facebook Live meeting, Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald spoke out against efforts by Fianna Fail and Fine Gael to form a tri-party government after Sinn Fein failed to procure the 80-seat majority needed to secure the nomination or Taoiseach in February. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael aim to join forces with a third party to secure the 80-seat majority, which would effectively push Sinn Fein – who received the most votes in the General Election – out of the government. "They're not going to be able to keep us out forever, in the medium term, because change is coming and we're determined to deliver it," McDonald asserted.

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## State Director/State FFAI Chairman's Report, cont.

McDonald, who is recovering after contracting Covid-19, also addressed testing inadequacies in Ireland. She says she waited 16 days for her test results and "nobody should be left in that position." In response, an HSE spokesperson said, "Restricted access to reagents needed to complete Covid-19 tests meant that turnaround times for results were longer than hoped for over recent weeks." They added that this issue has been addressed.

### UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS NEW GOVERNMENT

Nearly three months after the General Election, uncertainty still surrounds the condition of the new government. The February 8 election, in which no party managed to secure the 80-seat majority necessary to take power, poses questions as to what comes next. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, both of which failed to obtain the majority vote for the first time in nearly a century, have teamed up to form a coalition

that, if successful, will become the foundation of the new government. In order to accomplish this, the coalition would need to include an additional party that could ensure the stability of the government for at least four, if not five years. The only certainty of the coalition at this point is that Sinn Fein, the party that procured the majority of the votes, cannot be involved. The move is criticized by some as ignoring the will of the people.

The Constitution does not set forth a time-limit on how long the minority party can remain in power with full executive functions. The government contends that the full focus of every minister in Cabinet should be concentrated on tackling the Covid-19 pandemic at this time.

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

## Mark Your Calendars

### 2020 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

July 22-25

### 2021 State Convention

Cleveland OH, OH

### 2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

## Ireland 2021

I am setting up a trip to Ireland in August 2021. If you are interested, contact Mike McKenzie at [tmmckenzie31@gmail.com](mailto:tmmckenzie31@gmail.com) . If you want to see something in particular, let me know. The Ten day trip is limited to no more than twelve people.

Mike McKenzie