



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

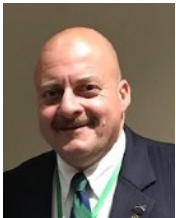
Newsletter

May 2022

Volume 4 Issue 5

President's Message

Brothers All,



It's May, and hopefully the weather will start to heat up, and with that so are all things Hibernian. There's a lot going on, especially our upcoming National Convention, which is the big topic here.

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!

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?*

We'll be hosting an in-person **state board meeting** on Saturday May 21st at 11am at Tara Hall in Columbus. Lots to talk about, so I look forward to seeing you all there. **That Friday evening, May 20th, is "Birthday Night" at Tara Hall**, with great music from some of the guys from the incomparably talented and fun Hooligans. It's always a great evening, with lots of joy and fellowship, so I hope to see lots of you at Tara Hall that Friday evening as well!

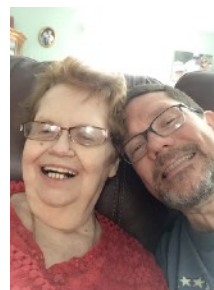
More details, especially draft agenda, to come soon.

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Chaplain's's Comments



The month of May is traditionally a time when we honor our Blessed Mother, Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. We honor Mary for her perfect fiat, her perfect yes to God, for her life as the first of the disciples, the first to have heard and proclaimed the good news of salvation. We are reminded that from his cross, Jesus commended his mother to his beloved disciple and in doing so, commends her to each of us, as well, that we might know her, love her, and honor her as our own Mother. As Americans of Irish descent, we are especially conscious of Mary's message when she appeared at Knock in County Mayo, when in her silence she eloquently and significantly pointed toward the image of her Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



As Americans, we also take time on the second Sunday of May to honor our own mothers as well. We celebrate our mothers who are still with us. We honor our mothers to be, who anxiously await the birth of their children. We honor our godmothers, who have been examples to us of our faith and have nurtured that faith for us. And we pray for our mothers who have died. Since my own mother's death just over a year ago, I am

Continued on Page 2

President’s Message, cont.

As we’ve passed the Easter season and move on with our Spring and Summer activities, it’s important to remember our Easter Appeal, and that’s why I’m reminding you now.

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:

Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal

Today we ask that every Division and Board to 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.

Remember, \$500 scholarship donations are name recognition scholarship. **Recognize your Chaplain or remember a diseased Hibernian with this years donation.**

2022 Project St. Patrick Donation Form

Please take the time to update you Diocese contact information so the seminarians and religious in in your diocese will receive a scholarship application.

2022 Project St. Patrick Diocese Vocation Director Form

As always, thanks for all you do. Your commitment and leadership are a true gift to our Order and our great State.

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.

particularly conscious of the difference she made in my life and the void that has been left now that I cannot see her and spend time with her, even just to hold her hand. I am reminded of something President Abraham Lincoln, whose mother died when he was only nine years old, is credited with having said: “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother”.

I wish a happy and blessed Mothers’ Day to all of our mothers, living and deceased.

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



Danny Eakins

Board of Trustees Member at Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH)

Danny Eakins was appointed to the ADAMH Board of Trustees by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services through June 30, 2025. A long-time veteran community advocate, Eakins is the Administrator for the Office of Veteran Policy & Programs at the Ohio Department of Veterans Services where he has authored and implemented state policies expanding opportunities for veterans. He has served in the United States Army and the Ohio National Guard.

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| Summit Board | Chuck Allen Charles4684@att.net |
| Summit #2 | Nick Jacobs njacobs@clashmore.com |
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FFAI Patrick Williams karimcwilly@gmail.com

PEC Scott Partika spartika11@gmail.com

Missions & Charities Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com

Organizer Joe Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Historian Mike Finn FCoolavin@aol.com

Veterans Affairs Danny Eakins dannyeakins@hotmail.com

Immigration John Myers 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

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

Ohio AOH Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs Report

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

Brothers – As of 4/22/2022, the VA in Ohio has completed vaccinations for 152,844 individuals.

VA-Tracked Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 26,165; 940 Deaths; Active Cases: 138

2) RallyPoint Social and Professional Online Network for Veterans:

RallyPoint is a social network made by, for, and about servicemembers and Veterans that includes personal and professional advisors that cover the gamut of military and professional experience. RallyPoint is intended to help veterans find and network with other military affiliated individuals in their area in a way that can ease transitions, improve personal connectivity, and create opportunities for career/professional advancement. More information about RallyPoint can be found here:

<https://www.rallypoint.com/>

3) Columbus Military/Veterans Educational Foundation – Armed Forces Day Luncheon:

For the first time since 2019, the Central Ohio Military/Veterans Educational Foundation (MILVETS) will host their traditional Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2022 at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center. Doors will open at 11am and the lunch will begin at 12pm. Each year, the MILVETS Armed Forces Day luncheon honors a specific branch of the Armed Forces, for 2022, they will honor the US Air Force. This is a tremendous event that brings together veteran and military leaders from across Columbus and Central Ohio from among veteran organizations, government, private industry, as well as Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard servicemembers. Local and state political leaders also often participate. MILVETS will present scholarship awards for several students, including ROTC students currently matriculating at Ohio colleges and universities. If you would be interested in attending, you can find more information about the luncheon and MILVETS here:

<https://www.ohiomilvets.org/page-4>

4) Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism (NEOPAT):

NEOPAT was founded in 2001 by a group of Cleveland-area business leaders who shared a passion for Northeast Ohio, and local military servicemembers, veterans, and their families. NEOPAT pulls together leaders in the entire NE Ohio community to include business and governments, veteran and non-profit organizations, and dedicated individuals to assist veterans and their families with the full-spectrum of need. This includes connection to emergency assistance as well as support for education and employment opportunities. I can tell you in my work, I regularly refer individuals in this region to NEOPAT as the first place to go to get connected to the veteran/military network for the region.

<https://neopat.org/>

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

St. Aloysius Academy, New Lexington, Ohio Lost Hibernian Window Recovered



In 2003 I received a letter from Brother Michael Carlyle, B.G.S., a Brother of the Good Shepherd, then serving in Arizona. Brother Carlyle had been the director of Mt. Aloysius Home for the developmentally disabled in New Lexington, Ohio, owned by the Brothers of Good Shepherd. It had formerly been the location of St. Aloysius Academy (see history below), owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity.

Brother Carlyle had seen an article in the news regarding our nationwide search for stained glass windows donated by the AOH. He wrote to advise me that a Hibernian donated window of St. Patrick was once located in the chapel of St. Aloysius Academy and that he had purchased it and three other windows from the Franciscan Sisters before the chapel and school were demolished in 1985. He noted that the windows were in Columbus and were being stored by Franklin Art Glass in German Village.

Franklin Art Glass said they had turned the windows over to the Diocese of Columbus when they were no longer able to store them. To make a long story short, since that time I have been looking for the AOH window, without much success. There was a rumor that the St. Patrick's window had been sold. This proved to be incorrect.

Fast forward to March 20, 2022. The Catholic Record Society held its quarterly meeting at the new Museum of Catholic Art and History (formerly the Jubilee Museum). Its Executive Director Shawn Kenney spoke and gave a tour of the new museum. I made a point to speak to Shawn about the missing window. He said, "Sure, we have it. I'll give it to you." Thus, a piece of our lost AOH history has been found. Currently, we are making arrangement to bring the window to Tara Hall in Columbus, where it can be preserved and admired (above photo). Brother Michael Carlyle, B.G.S. passed away in 2008.

The St. Patrick AOH Window

A lot of the history of the Hibernians in Perry County has been lost over the years, so determining the Hibernian origin of the window is difficult. The 1884 AOH national roster there were three Divisions in Perry County (New Straitsville, Rendville and Shawnee) by 1905 there were four Divisions (New Straitsville, Shawnee, Corning and Junction City). In Perry County, Hibernian windows have also been identified at New Straitsville St. Augustine (church has been demolished) and Junction City St. Patrick (still in use).

It's likely the St. Aloysius window was donated by the Perry County Board. The St. Aloysius Academy window was manufactured in Munich, Germany and installed in 1891. It is likely that the small fellow at St. Patrick's feet was intended to be a leprechaun, although it bears a strong resemblance to a German gnome.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

A Brief History of St. Aloysius Academy

In 1870, Owen Donnelly, a farmer and a native of Ireland, donated a large farm northwest of New Lexington to Bishop Sylvester H. Rosecrans, the first bishop of Columbus, in hopes that it could be used for a school. The bishop assigned Father Moitrier, the pastor of St. Rose Parish in New Lexington to begin construction on the new academy.



In 1875 Bishop Rosecrans, asked the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity to take over the operation of a new boarding school for girls (it would serve as a boys military academy and a high school later in its history) that had been started in New Lexington, Perry County, Ohio. The Franciscan Sisters were then running St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum in Columbus.

In 1875 six sisters arrived from Konitz, West Prussia, led by Mother Gonzaga Brexel to take over the incomplete school, which Mother Gonzaga named St. Aloysius after Mother Aloysia Lender, the first Franciscan Sister of her Order to arrive in America. But the new school was not yet completed

and there were financial difficulties resulting from its construction.

It was nearly a year before the school building was completed and the Sisters could move into the sparsely furnished quarters. On October 4 (the feast of St. Francis), 1876, the building was dedicated and ready to accept students. The original single structure was expanded in 1882 to include dormitories for boarding students, an auditorium and an infirmary.

In 1890 construction began on the chapel, as well as, more dormitories, a study hall and a music room. These were completed in 1891. The Gothic chapel (located at far right in the photo above) was ready for use in September 1891. The chapel included a new hand-carved oak altar made at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. The stained glass windows were imported from Munich, Germany and were gifts by friends of the Academy, including one of St. Patrick donated by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Perry County. The chapel was officially dedicated to the patronage of the Immaculate Conception by Bishop John Ambrose Watterson in May, 1892.

Because of declining student enrollment, the Franciscan Sisters decided to close Saint Aloysius Academy in 1969. The building was sold to the Brothers of the Good Shepherd on November 1, 1969. They used it in their work with the physically and developmentally disabled. They added new buildings to the grounds, and renamed the site Mt. Aloysius.

The original St. Aloysius Academy complex, including the chapel, was demolished on July 17-18, 1985. The Brothers of the Good Shepherd sold the facility to the Mt. Aloysius Corporation, who added new buildings. It remains in operation today as Mt. Aloysius is still serving the physically and developmentally disabled.

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](tel: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 | |
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| 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

Mark Your Calendars

Spring State Board Meeting

May 21, 2022

Tara Hall

274 E. Innis Ave.

Columbus, OH 43207

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

State Organizer's Report

GREEN SEASON SUCCESS?

How did your divisions recruitment work out during the Green Season?

This was the first St. Patrick's Day in a couple years that we were able to get out, attend and/or march in parades and enjoy the company of others at different events. If you did well, congratulations! If you didn't fare that well, don't give up hope. We will soon be entering "Festival Season" and another chance to increase membership.

Here are some tips that you might want to try:

- Set up a table or tent with recruitment material (available on aoh.com, then "About the AOH", then "Organizer Resources", if you need more material.)
- Be sure you have at least one or two members manning the table at all times. People always have questions and might just walk away for good if nobody is there to speak with.
- Make sure those who are manning the table are wearing AOH division shirts that show you are proud of who you are. This gives a potential applicant a sense of unity.
- If you visit festivals and don't have a table, be sure to wear your Hibernian shirts. Then, if someone asks, you can give your pitch!

Whatever you do and wherever you go, be sure to be good Ambassadors of our Order. Good luck and get with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Joe Casey, State Organizer, Deputy National 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.

Spring 2022 Ohio AOH State Board Meeting

Please join us at 11am on Saturday, May 21st, at Tara Hall in Columbus for our Spring Board meeting. Lots to talk about, especially the upcoming National Convention!

Division and County Board Presidents, as a reminder: your Division or Board is expected to have representation at the State Board meeting. Please make this a priority, and be prepared to share a report.

Also, the night before, Friday the 20th, will be May Birthday Night at Tara Hall, which is always a grand time and a great opportunity for fun and fellowship.

More details, especially draft agenda, to come soon.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Slan, Bob

Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina County

May Pancake Breakfast



We will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at Our Lady of Grace Church on Ridge Road in Hinckley. After expenses 50% of the profits will go to our Lady of Grace and 50% will go to Medina County AOH.

Brother Pete Chrystal has agreed to be the chef but we will need at least 6 more volunteers. Mark your calendar and please give a few hours of your time.



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

Catholic Action

The month of May is traditionally a month dedicated to Mary. This year May falls within the Easter season, the liturgical color being white. The Ascension of the Lord, a solemnity and holy day of obligation, falls this year on May 26. Many dioceses of the United States transfer the Ascension to the following Sunday.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF MAY

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Athanasius | May 2 | Memorial |
| Philip and James, Apostles | May 3 | Feast |
| Damien de Veuster (The Leper) | May 10 | |
| Matthias, Apostle | May 14 | Feast |
| Bernardine of Siena | May 20 | |
| The Ascension of the Lord | May 26 | Solemnity |
| The Visitation of Mary | May 31 | Feast |

IRISH SAINTS OF MAY

Ultan, Abbot (d. 686) May 2

St. Ultan, along with his sainted brothers, Fursey and Foillan, crossed over to East Anglia together. The East Anglian king, Sigebert I, gave them land at Burgh Castle, near Yarmouth, upon which they founded an abbey. The land was harried by raids from the pagan Mercians, and Fursey decided to leave for the Continent, where he died. Years later, Ulltan and Foillan stopped at their brother's tomb at Peronne, on the way back from a Roman pilgrimage. They were encouraged to remain in Gaul by Blessed Ita and her daughter, St. Gertrude, who offered them land for a foundation at Fosses. Ultan became the abbot of Fosses, but was later abbot at Peronne, where he died. The saint received a revelation of the death of his brother Fursey at the hands of bandits, and he predicted the death of St. Gertrude.

Gibrian (d.c. 515) May 8

Late in the fifth century, an Irish family group consisting of seven brothers and three sisters emigrated to Brittany, looking for an opportunity to serve God there. Gibrian was a priest and the eldest, their leader. They adopted an heremetical life near the Marne, close enough to each other to remain in contact. St. Gibrian died there after a life of prayer and austerity, and a chapel was erected at the site of his hermitage. His relics were removed to Rheims to save them from the Vikings, but they did not survive the destruction wrought by the French Revolution.

Catald, Bishop of Taranto (d.c.685) May 10

Also known as Cathal, this man was a scholarly monk who taught at Lismore. Catald resigned his post and went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On his way home he was somehow chosen as second bishop of Taranto (Tarentum) in Italy, where he remains titular saint of the cathedral.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Conleth, Bishop of Kildare (d.c. 520)

May 10

Conleth is also known as Conlaed, and is one of a number of early Irish saints who were said to be skilled workers in metal. He was living as a hermit at Old Connell on the Liffey when he made the acquaintance of St. Brigid. Brigid gave him an avenue for his artistic talents, and later his pastoral skills as well, after he was chosen bishop of Kildare. Conleth is considered by some the fashioner of a crozier presented to St. Finbar, which is preserved to this day. There is an odd story about his being devoured by wolves, but scholars consider it a legendary attempt to explain his name in Gaelic.

Comgall, Abbot of Bangor (c. 517-603)

May 11

St. Comgall, born in Ulster, is considered one of the founders of Irish monasticism. After some years of tutelage under St. Fintan in the monastery of Cloneenagh and his ordination as a priest, Comgall retired to an island in Lough Erne with a few followers. The life of this community was so severe that Bishop Lugid, who had ordained Comgall, prevailed upon him to relax the rule in force there. Later, Comgall founded the great abbey of Bangor, which came to have about 3 thousand monks there and at daughter houses during Comgall's reign. Many sought his spiritual mentorship, including St. Columban, who later carried many Bangor traditions to the Continent.

Carthach, Bishop and Abbot (d. 637)

May 14

St. Carthach seems to have adopted his name from his mentor, St. Carthach the Elder, to whom he was known as "Mochuda," or "my Cuda," the last evidently being his given name. He is also known as Carthage. He was a swineherd of Castlemaine, Kerry, till coming under the tutelage of his mentor, who trained him as a monk and ordained him. Carthach lived for a time as a hermit at a place named Kiltulagh, but local ecclesiastical rivalries led him to remove to Bangor where he was directed by St. Comgall. After visiting a number of other monasteries, Carthach eventually settled at Rahan in present County Offaly, c. 595, establishing an abbey which is said to have eventually grown to 800 monks. Carthach's rule for that house is extant, though not likely in its original form. The saint may also have held the bishopric of Fircall. The life at Rahan was very austere, a fact perhaps supplying the motive of two unhappy inmates who attempted to drown Carthach. In 635, the community was broken up when the monks were expelled by Blathmac, a hostile chieftain. After some wandering, Carthach and his followers settled on the banks of the Blackwater, where, on land donated by a local prince, they established the great abbey and school of Lismore. Here again, Carthach is said to have served as abbot-bishop, and is regarded as the founder of the see of Lismore.

Brendan, Abbot of Clonfert (d. 577 or 583)

May 16

Despite the fact that St. Brendan is one of the best known of Ireland's saints, the true story of his life is so embellished with legend that it is hard to arrive at very many undisputed details. He was probably born near Tralee. Brendan was under the tutelage of several different spiritual mentors in his youth. He was probably ordained a priest before he became a monk. There is little undisputed evidence to support the story of his far-flung adventures at sea and across the North Atlantic; he probably did voyage to Scotland, and possibly Wales. The most reliable fact about him is that he established the abbey at Clonfert, about 559. Brendan supposedly established a rule for Clonfert, which was dictated to him by an angel. Brendan reputedly died at Enach Duin, where he had gone to visit his sister, Brig, who led a religious community of women there. One thing that is unquestionable about Brendan is that he made an enormous spiritual impression upon his contemporaries.

ISSUES

Tuesday, May 3rd is primary election day in Ohio, though we will likely be having a second primary later, due to the ongoing controversy over redistricting. Our bishops have called upon us to exercise a Catholic conscience when it comes to our voting.

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

Fraternally,

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