

Ohio State Board Newsletter

September 2023 Volume 5 Issue 9

President's Message



Brothers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Summer. As we transition into Fall, a lot of Division events will be taking place. Please make sure to send all of your events to State Webmaster Marc Wolnitzek at

marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com to have your event listed on the State

Website. Also, if you have not already, please send your Division meeting dates, times and location to Marc to be added to our website. Many of of you Division President's have recently received and email from State Organizer Joe Casey regarding applications that came in through the National Web portal. For some reason, these applications did not reach us in a timely manner. Please reach out to these prospective members as soon as possible.

In October, National President Danny O'Connell will be having his Testimonial Dinner in Youngstown. If you have never been to an event like this, I urge you to attend. You will be able to meet Brother Hibernians from literally all across the United States. You should of received an email from the National Board. If you did not, please contact me and I will forward it to you

In November, please plan on attending a Fall State Board Meeting in Columbus. I am working with State Vice President/Division President Bruce McPherson on securing a date. I would like to have as many people attend as possible. I will be sending out detailed event information in the weeks to come.

Thank you Brothers for continuing to make our beloved Order a success and remember to be Irish is a Blessing and to be a Hibernian is an honor.

Denny

Chaplain's Comments



Brothers.

In the Gospel of Matthew this Sunday, we hear Jesus trying to explain the events of the Paschal Mystery to his disciples. It says, "He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief

priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly". Jesus was speaking plainly to his disciples as they traveled. He wasn't speaking in parables or telling them a story to make a point, or performing miracles. Jesus is having a conversation with his friends while they are traveling and letting them know what to expect.

When he said he would suffer greatly, he was telling them that he would be abandoned by his friends and by his hometown, his family, the church elders, priests, and scribes. Jesus said point blank that he would be killed. He didn't mince words. He was letting them know that he would be brutally killed for preaching and teaching the Gospel message. He also said that he would rise after three days. Jesus was telling his disciples about the Paschal Mystery that they were going to be witness to, so when it happened, they would better understand what he was teaching them about God's plan of salvation.

Of course, they didn't fully understand this until after the Resurrection and Pentecost when they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understanding. At this point however, they heard the words of Jesus in human terms, and were thinking only of the terms of their earthly existence. That is why Peter, who recently declared, "You are the Christ", is taking Jesus aside and rebuking him for speaking about these things as if it were nonsense and that they could never happen. Jesus himself gets upset and says to Peter, "Get behind me Satan! You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Jesus then gets everyone together and says, look, I am going to show you the way. He says, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me".

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Ohio State Board Newsletter

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

Jesus is speaking of the Paschal Mystery and how it is through the cross which will bring about His death, will also bring about everlasting life. He is telling us that to really live, we must not live for our own desires, but as He did not follow His own will, we should follow his example and follow the will of God. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

We "lose our life", my brothers, by conforming our will to the will of God. We give up our earthly desires and stop thinking as human beings do, and start thinking as God does. And what is God thinking? What does he want from us? What is the mission of the Church? What is it that Jesus was preaching and teaching about? Saving souls!

God's plan of salvation for the world is realized in the Paschal Mystery. Through his suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus shows us how to live according to God's will.

We may not be crucified on a cross, but when Jesus says that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him, he is saying in our lives we will suffer as he suffered. Our sufferings may be the loss of a loved one, it may be physical suffering from an illness or injury, it may be surviving a catastrophe or some live changing event, it may be battling an addiction... Whatever it is; the pain, the tragedy and the sorrow that we experience here on earth, is our cross. We do not necessarily have only one cross either. We all know people who are constantly dealing will terrible things in their lives and it never seems to end. Some crosses are heavier than others.

Following Christ on the cross means that we will see suffering, we will see death and we will also see resurrection. By picking up our cross, we are accepting the pain, the tragedy, the sorrow; whatever it may be, and enduring it knowing that God is always there with us through the whole thing. He is there for us to call on as Jesus did, when he asked God to end his suffering on the cross, but only if it was his will that it be so. Jesus showed us how to endure through prayer, understanding and acceptance. When we accept our cross, that is the situation that created our cross, and come to an understanding that with God, we can endure and move past the situation, we can put it behind us. Once we can move past our suffering, we can put to

death that which caused the suffering. By putting that which caused our suffering to death, we can move forward again in life. This is our resurrection. After the death on our cross, we rise to new life as a changed person. We are changed by the experience, but we are not held down by it. We have learned to live again. We may have scars from the experience of our cross. But as Jesus showed the marks of his crucifixion to those he loved, we too can show the scars of what we experienced as we share them with others and show them how to carry their cross.

We share in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we are members of his living body, we share in his humanity and his divinity. It is in this sharing that we are allowed to share in life everlasting.

The Paschal Mystery not only provides us a path to follow Jesus to life after death, but it provides us with a model to follow in life as we are called to pick up our crosses. The Paschal Mystery shows us how to suffer, how to endure, how to trust God and how to move from death, that is the end of our suffering; to a new life changed by the experience.

We are all called to pick up our crosses and follow Christ. To do this we must lose our life to self and give it to God and live according to his will. Allow His will to guide us in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity as we follow our call to be Hibernians. In so doing, we will be living the life God wants us to live. We will be living a life in the Gospel that preaches and teaches of God's plan of salvation. We will be living a life that will show others that even though there is pain, tragedy and sorrow in our lives, we do not let it get us down. Be confident that if we follow the example Jesus showed us of how to endure the suffering and dying of our own cross; we too will rise to a new life as He did, through the resurrection.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce



2023 - 2025 Officers

Chaplain Deacon Bruce Dobbins

brunomusarra@yahoo.com

President **Dennis Parks**

dparks121@yahoo.com

Vice President Bruce McPherson

hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com

Secretary Pete Chrystal

pvchrystal59@gmail.com

Treasurer Greg Brown

Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com

Director John Myers

johnmyers216@gmail.com

Director Chris Schulte

crpschulte@gmail.com

Past President **Bob Harper**

harper.bg@pg.com

National President Daniel J. O'Connell

dioconnell@ysu.edu

National Catholic Action Patrick J. Lally

lally8404@hotmail.com

National Project St. Patrick Ron Hagan

rhagan@hagancpa.com

National Deputy Organizer Joseph M. Casev

qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

National Oversight Committee Dennis Parks

dparks121@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action Patrick Lally lally8404@hotmail.com

Pro Life Dave Manley ruthannanddavid@gmail.com

FFAI Patrick Williams karimcwilly@gmail.com

PEC spartika11@gmail.com Mike Cosgrove

crpschulte@gmail.com **Project St. Patrick** Chris Schulte

Missions & Charities Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com

Organizer Joe Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Historian Mike Finn FCoolavin@aol.com

Veterans Affairs Vacant

Immigration John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com

OHIO DIVISIONS

County **Division President**

Douglas Gerrard Clermont

dpgerrard@aol.com

Cuyahoga Board Ben Neylon

BNevlon@vahoo.com

Cuvahoga #2 Charles O'Neil

oduffv317@aol.com

Cuyahoga #3 Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com

Franklin #1 Bruce McPherson

hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com

Hamilton #1 Christopher Schulte

crpschulte@gmail.com

Lucas Robert McMahon

aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com

Mahoning #6 Ray Kelly IV

aohrpk@gmail.com

Medina Joe Gill wildirishjoe@icloud.com

Montgomery Art Gannon

artgannon@aol.com

Stark #1 Tom Fickes

fic1424@aol.com

Summitt Board Jim Meszaros

meszi01@neo.rr.com

Summit #2 Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com

Summit #3 Michael Namsick

mpnamsick@gmail.com

Trumbull Marty McQuaide

emcqu@aol.com

Washington Will Rathbone Willrathbone@gmail.com

Newsletter News

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

jjcasey973@gmail.com

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

Commodore John Barry



Article XXIII of the AOH National Constitution states, in part, that Commodore John Barry Day, September 13th is a National Holiday of the Order and it shall be celebrated in an appropriate manner. The John Barry Medal is presented by Hibernians throughout the United States to commemorate outstanding academic, cultural and civic achievement.

John Barry was born in Tachumshain, County Wexford, Ireland in 1745 and immigrated to Philadelphia at the age of fifteen. Barry found employment with a shipping firm where he prospered and became Master of several merchant vessels.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Barry was made Captain of the ship "Lexington" by the Continental Congress and on April 7, 1776, captured the British sloop "Edward", the first war prize taken by the Americans. On December 24, 1776, his ragtag fleet unable to reach open water, Barry left his ships, recruited a company of volunteers, rushed to the aid of General Washington on the banks of the Delaware River and participated in the Trenton and Princeton victories.

In the fall of 1777, with Philadelphia in the grip of the enemy and American hopes at their lowest, the British General, Lord Howe, tried to entice Barry to desert General Washington. Barry replied, "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can lure me from the cause of my country." During the course of the American Revolution, Barry boldly and skillfully engaged and captured many British vessels and was wounded.

In 1781, the Catholic citizens of France sent to the American patriots the sum of six million dollars. The safe transport of that vital gift was entrusted to John Barry aboard his ship "Resolute". That money, clothing and munitions enabled General Washington to sustain his army and assemble his forces at Yorktown where, with the aid of the French fleet, he defeated Cornwallis.

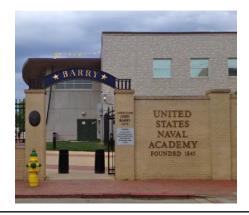
On March 10, 1783, Barry, aboard the "Alliance" won the last sea battle of the American Revolution when, while escorting a shipment of funds vital to the new nation, he engaged and avoided capture by the British ship "Sybille".

When recalcitrant members of the Pennsylvania Assembly shirked their duty to consider and vote on adoption of the Constitution, Barry led a group, called "the Compellers", who dragged the delegates to the State House and thrust them into the Chambers as the assembled citizenry cheered.

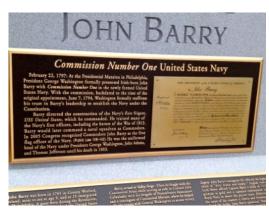
On June 14, 1794, President Washington appointed John Barry Commanding Officer of the United States Navy with Commission Number One.

On September 13, 1803, at his home on Strawberry Hill, Philadelphia, Barry died after a long illness. He is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. By Joint Resolution, approved August 20, 1981, the U.S. Congress designated September 13, the anniversary of his death, "Commodore John Barry Day" as a tribute to the "father of the United States Navy". By Joint Resolution, approved in December 2005, Commodore John Barry has been recognized as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

Monuments honoring John Barry have been raised in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York, Boston, County Wexford, Ireland. On May 10, 2014, due to the efforts of the AOH, the Barry Gate and the Barry Monument were dedicated at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.







State Organizer's Report

From our National Organizer.....

"The National Organizing Committee has been asked to implement a better reporting system to ensure that each application is vetted and the applicant either initiated or deemed unqualified.

We have therefore decided to implement a far simpler, monthly reporting process. The goal is to make this an easier process for everyone involved and to "close the loop" on the application process."

That being said, our worthy State President and I have received a spreadsheet, listing all of the open applications for Ohio. I have gone through and updated the spreadsheet, removing those applicants who have joined a division, those who decided not to join and those who were not qualified. I sent that spreadsheet back to our National Organizer and Dan Devinney, the National Director assigned to Ohio. It will be updated and sent back next month for us to repeat the process. This is to ensure that all qualified applicants become members and are not left out.

At this time, we have over 25 open applications that date back to 2021. I will be sending a list to the division presidents for their feedback so we can close the ones we can either by elimination or if the applicant has, in fact joined. I'm certain that, in many cases the applicants never responded and in that case we can either reach out to them again and then eliminate them as open applicants.

We have mentioned in the past that these are our "low hanging fruit" and we should follow up on them as soon as possible while the applicant is interested in joining.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1 Franklin Co.

Patrick Pearse Division #1 organized the Dublin Irish Festival Gaelic Mass once again this year. Father Stephen Hayes and Ohio AOH State President Denny Parks pictured with Patrick Pearse Division #1 members and spouses who served as ushers and Eucaristic Ministers.



State Historian's Report

George Washington's Son and Ireland

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



The marriage of George and Martha Washington produced no biological children. Martha married Washington after she had been widowed. Martha's son from her first marriage, John Parke Custis, was married and had four children.

In 1781 John Parke Custis died at the Battle of Yorktown. George Washington immediately adopted John Parke Custis' two youngest children, George Washington Parke Custis (pictured), who was only six-months old, and his sister Eleanor, who was two years old.

George Custis and his sister were raised by the Washingtons at Mt. Vernon. George Custis attended Germantown Academy in Pennsylvania, the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. He was a poor student throughout

his university years. George Washington in his diaries and correspondence often expressed concern and frustration regarding Custis and his own inability to bring about improvement in either Custis' attitude or scholarship.

When he turned 21 in 1802, George Custis inherited a large amount of money and land from the estates of his father, his grandfather and from George and Martha Washington. Almost immediately, he began constructing *Arlington House* on land inherited from his father. The land was located on a hill that is now directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

In 1799, Custis was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. During the War of 1812, Custis served in the defense of Washington, D.C., at the Battle of Bladensburg. On July 7, 1804, Custis married Mary Lee Fitzhugh. Of their four children, only one daughter, Mary Anna Custis, survived. She married Robert E. Lee on June 30, 1831. Upon the death of George Custis in 1857 Arlington House became the home of Robert E. Lee. After the Civil War the property was confiscated by the federal government and eventually became Arlington National Cemetery.

During his life George Custis became a notable orator, writer, and playwright. As the "son" of George Washington he was regularly called upon to speak and write regarding Washington. His most famous work, published after his death, was *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington*. It was a collection of biographical essays he wrote about his adoptive father.

From the mid-1820s to his death in 1857, George Custis vocally supported the cause of Irish freedom from Great Britain (who he referred to as the Lion) and he was often the main speaker at many St. Patrick's Day festivities. He once said that the Fourth of July, Washington's Birthday and St. Patrick's Day were "the three holy days" he observed "with religious fervor."

On July 20, 1826 George Washington Parke Custis presided over a meeting held in City Hall, Washington, D.C., for the purpose of transmitting "a consolatory address" to the people of Ireland. His address at the meeting is interesting because it emphasizes how much George Washington and his son loved and esteemed Ireland and it pays tribute to the part Ireland played in the War of Independence. The following are several excerpts from the address delivered by Custis:

"... there are those who doubt the propriety of interference in the concerns of other people, potentates or powers. I ask these skeptics, do you fear the Old Lion's growl? But, perhaps there are Protestants who have scruples of conscience, and decline to interfere, even in opinion, with Papal matters. If these are Americans let me say, 'When you felt the full force of the Lion's merciless fangs, who first gave you the aid, not of words but deeds?' There was a time, when Americans were not sticklers in doctrinal matters; it was, when, to our wasted war-worn ranks, we were glad to receive the religionists of any creed, and found, to our comfort and to our independence, too, that a Catholic arm could drive a bayonet on the foe, and a Catholic heart beat high for the liberties of our country."

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State Historian's Report, cont.

"When our friendless standard was first unfurled for resistance, who were the strangers that first mustered round its staff, and when it reeled in the fight, who more bravely sustained it than Erin's sons? Who led the right wing of Liberty's forlorn hope, at the passage of the Delaware? An Irishman. Who felt the privations of the camp, the fate of battle, or the horrors of the prison ship more keenly than Irishmen? Look on this picture, Americans, which though feebly, is faithfully drawn, then talk of interference, and I blush for my country."

"Or will you seek farther their merits to disclose? I cap the climax of their worth, when I say, Washington loved them, for they were the companions of his toils, his perils, his glories in the deliverance of his country."

"If there is an American who does not feel for the wrongs of that country, which so nobly contributed to the establishment of our rights, I pronounce him recreant to the feelings of virtue, honor and gratitude. And my country's self, if she decline to give only her poor opinions of the miseries of those who gave their toil and blood that she might be great, free and happy, when misfortunes next assail her, may she not find the friend she once found in Ireland."

"This token will convey our greetings to Erin's distant sons, and when it arrives there, they will exclaim, 'There is yet a people who remember poor Ireland and who, rejoicing in their own rights, can feel for the wrongs of others."

"Health and success to the Emerald Isle! My country's friend in my country's utmost need. May she soon be relieved from the Lion's grasp, for the Lion is of a kind that fondles ere it kills, whose blandishments lure but to destroy. And when Ireland shall strike her Harp to the wild notes of Erin and Liberty the ocean breeze will bear to her shores the prayers of Americans, to cheer her in her glorious struggle, and hail her regenerate in the rights of mankind."

"Ireland, thou friend to my country, in my country's most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation. May the God of Heaven, in His justice and mercy, grant thee more prosperous fortunes, and in His own good time, cause the sun of freedom to shed its benign radiance on the Emerald Isle. Erin and Liberty. Erin go bragh."

Before Custis died in October 1857 he said, "I trust in God that though years after my mortal body shall have been laid in the bosom of our common mother, some honest Irish heart may come and, dropping a shamrock on my grave, cry, 'God bless him!"

Every St Patrick's season for 56 years, the District of Columbia State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians sponsors a ceremony that begins from the front steps of Arlington House. The presentation of the "George Washington Parke Custis Friend of Ireland" award is the centerpiece of the ceremony followed by a short parade behind bagpipers to Custis' nearby grave where a bunch of fresh shamrocks from Ireland are planted.

Mark Your Calendars

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL, August 7 - 11
For additional information, See

https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1

Commodore John Barry Day

September 13th

AOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Ancient Order of Hibernian President Testimonial Youngstown Ohio October 13-14, 2023

Hibernians and Friends.

Join the Celebration on the Campus of Youngstown State University

You are invited to participate in the 2023 AOH National President's Testimonial and the AOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Weekend. Celebrate the success of President O'Connell's leadership throughout his time on the national board

Package Price \$215
Friday Reception Only \$80
Saturday Dinner Only \$165

Seats are limited so please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Laurie and Dan Brinker at:

AOH.MacBride@gmail.com

Reserve your seat today. Only 150 seats available.

Rooms are available at the Youngstown Doubletree for \$135 + Tax.

Book your room today:

Contact: Laurie and Dan Brinker

AOH Testimonial Chair

Email address: <u>AOH.MacBride@GMAIL.COM</u>

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern Honored by AOH

In the 25th year of the Good Friday Agreement, former Taoiseach Ahern will receive The Ancient Order of Hibernians Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award. Bertie served three five year terms as Taoiseach and was a signatory of the GFA.

Learn more about Bertie Ahern before you meet him in Youngstown Ohio on October 13 and 14 by visiting Bertie Ahern Website.

<u>View As I Remember It: Bertie Ahern & The Good Friday Agreement – Podcast From 22 Feb 2023</u>



Catholic Action

The month of September is still part of Ordinary Time, with green being the liturgical vestment color.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

Sept. 8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast	
Sept. 9	Peter Claver	Memorial	
Sept. 13	John Chrysostom	Memorial	
Sept. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast	
Sept. 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	Memorial	
Sept. 16	Cornelius, Pope and Martyr; Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr		Memorial
Sept. 20	Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sa	ng, and Companions, Martyrs	Memorial
Sept. 21	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Feast	
Sept. 23	Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	Memorial	
Sept. 27	Vincent de Paul,	Memorial	
Sept. 29	Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archange	els Feast	
Sept. 30	Jerome, Priest and Doctor,	Memorial	

IRISH SAINTS OF SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 Fiacre (d.c. 670)

Fiacre was an Irishman who went to France in search of a place of solitude. The bishop of Meaux gave him a tract of land at Breuil, where he lived as a solitary for a time. Eventually, he built a hospice for travelers there, attracted many disciples, ministered to the poor, and dealt out spiritual advice. A number of cures are attributed to his intercession, including some on behalf of the royal family of France. He is the patron saint of Paris cabbies (*fiacres*). Fiacre is also the patron saint of gardeners.

Sept. 3 Macinisius, Bishop (d.514)

Macinisius (or Aengus MacNisse) was, according to legend, baptized by St. Patrick, and later consecrated bishop by him as well. He may have journeyed to the Holy Land and spent time at Rome. He founded a church and monastery at Kells--later considered the first bishopric of Connor. Stories of very extravagant miracles surround him.

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Ohio State Board Newsletter

Catholic Action, cont.

Sept. 4 Ultan, Bishop (d.657)

Probably bishop of Ardbraccan, he was a learned evangelizer, also known for his ministrations to the poor, sick, and orphaned. Reputedly, he collected the writings of St. Brigid and wrote the life of Brigid known as "the third life," and supplied St. Tirechan with his materials for his annotations on the life of St. Patrick found in the Book of Armagh. The existence of more than one saintly Ultan has resulted in confusion.

Sept. 6 Bega, Virgin (7th century)

Also known as Bee or Begh and reportedly of Irish royalty, she fled to Cumberland to avoid a marriage to a Norwegian prince. She lived as a hermitess for a while, but on the advice of St. Oswald, king of Northumbria, took religious vows from St. Aidan and founded a monastery at Copeland. St. Bee's Head in Northumbria is named after her.

Sept. 9 Ciaran, Abbot (d.c. 556)

One of a number of sainted Ciarans, this man is known as Ciaran the Younger. HIs name is also spelled "Kieran." Many fanciful stories are told of him. We do know that he studied at St. Finnian's school at Clonard, and tutored the daughter of King Cuala. He is one of the so-called Twelve Apostles of Ireland. After some wanderings, he founded the famous abbey at Clonmacnois on the Shannon in County Offaly, a renowned center of Irish learning.

Sept. 10 Finnian of Moville, Bishop (d.c.579)

An Ulsterman possibly of royal blood, he studied at several monastic schools before crossing to the land of the Scots and becoming a monk at Whitern in Strathclyde. It would be interesting to know more about one of the stories told of him: that he was forced to leave Whitern, due to the fallout from a prank which he played on a Pictish princess who was enamored of him. He went to Rome and was ordained there. Upon returning to Ireland, he founded a monastery at Moville, where St. Columba was one of his disciples. There is a story that the two fell into a dispute about a copy which Columba made of a manuscript of St. Jerome's psalter. The dispute received royal mediation, resulting in a victory for Finnian. Finnian is credited with founding, at some point, the monastery at Holywood in Scotland.

Sept. 12 Ailbhe (d.c. 526)

Little is known of this saint but miraculous stories. Also known as Ailbe or Albeus, he preached in Ireland prior to St. Patrick according to some accounts. More likely, he lived in the 6th century.

Sept. 15 Mirin, Abbot (7th century)

A disciple of St. Comgall, Mirin undertook missions to Scotland. He was for a time abbot of Bangor. At one time a number of churches in Scotland bore his name.

Catholic Action, cont.

Sept. 23 Adamnan, Abbot (c. 624-704)

Adamnan was born in Donegal, becoming a monk there and later lived at Iona, where he became the ninth abbot in 679. Adamnan had close ties to the royal family of Northumbria, having sheltered the heir to the throne from a usurper. He later used this connection to secure the ransom of Irish prisoners of war. The English monastic writer Bede recalled that as a teenager he met Adamnan during a visit Adamnan made to Wearmouth and Jarrow. Adamnan was instrumental in bringing about the agreement of the Irish church to adopt the Easter calendar usage of the Roman church, bringing it into line with most of Europe, though his own community of Iona resisted. Bede noted Adamnan's reputation as a brilliant scholar of Scripture. He was an advocate of the protection of women and children from the ravages of war, wrote an important biography of Columba.

Sept. 25 Finbar, Bishop (d.c. 633)

Reputedly the illegitimate son of a Connaught master smith and a royal female, and baptized Lochan, he was sent to Kilkenny to be educated. It was from the monks there that he received the name by which he is known, Finbar (*Fionnbharr*), Whithead, due to his fair hair. He made at least two trips to Rome, on one of which he visited St. David in Wales on his way home. He may have preached in Scotland, as well as southern Ireland, lived as a hermit for several years, and ultimately founded a monastery which grew into the city of Cork. He was its first bishop.

STATE NEWS OF INTEREST

With the August special election behind us, we now face a ballot initiative during the November election which is designed to write "freedom of reproductive decisions" into the state constitution. Pro-abortion groups are buoyed by recent successes in doing so in California, Vermont, and Michigan. More than 50 pro-life organizations, including Ohio's Catholic bishops, are warning that the measure would allow late-term abortions, potentially take away parental rights over their children's "reproductive" decisions, and eliminate health and safety requirements. The measure may also impact parental control over childrens' sex change procedures. In recent litigation in Alaska and Indiana, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU have argued that parental consent laws can create unconstitutional burdens on minors. Language in the bill may also immunize those who pressure or coerce a woman to have an abortion. Ohio will be watched closely; pro-abortion forces plan similar initiatives in 11 states in 2024. Pray and then act!

Ohio Catholic churches recently struck by vandalism: Immaculate Conception in Willoughby, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wickcliffe, and St. Francis de Sales in Parma.

Ohio's March for Life is in Columbus October 6. Are you planning to attend?

Do you have news of your division to report? Please send for inclusion in this report.

Fraternally Yours,

Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com, 330-792-7135