



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*September 2024*

*Volume 6, Issue 9*

## President's Message



I hope you all had an excellent summer. As we move into fall, things are starting to pick back up. Please mark your calendars for November 2, 2024. There will be a State Board meeting at Tara Hall in Columbus. All brothers are welcome to the State Board meeting provided you have a 2024 membership card. I would like to see as many brothers there as possible. More information to follow.

The AOH National Convention was held in Orlando Fl. last month. Ohio was well represented. Although we did not have our full allotment of delegates present, the brothers that were there represented Ohio well. Brother Sean Pender from New Jersey was elected National President. Thanks again to Past National President Danny "O" for all your hard work moving the Order forward the last four years. We now look forward to the State Convention next June in Akron.

Ohio Catholic Action Chair Pat Lally is planning on attending the Ohio Right to Life March on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are plan on attending, please contact Pat at [lally8404@hotmail.com](mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com).

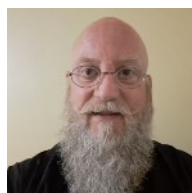
Brothers, thank you for all of your hard work. I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming weeks.

In Motto,

Denny



## Chaplain's Comments



In the Gospel of the Twenty-Third Week of Ordinary Time, we hear of the

account of Jesus healing a deaf man who also has a speech impediment. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly...He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.

This happened to us at our baptism. During the rite, there is a prayer called the Ephphatha where the celebrant touched our ears and our mouth and said, "The Lord Jesus made the deaf to hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to praise the glory of God the Father".

Our ears were opened my brothers, to hear his word and allow it to affect our minds and our hearts. It affects our minds in that we learn about the truths of the faith and in so doing learn about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We learn about our relationship to him and one another, his love for all his creations, his plan of salvation, and possibly our particular purpose to which we may help bring God's plan of salvation to fruition.

As we hear and understand these things, the word of God affects our hearts through conversion. We are all called to a life of conversion. We are not to

*Continued on Page 2*

**Chaplain's Comments, cont.**

sit idle or allow our faith to become stale. This is what happens if we don't actively foster our religious education. When was the last time you attended a class or a workshop about our faith? Was it when you were confirmed? For many Catholics this is the case. With school resuming for our children and grand-children, it reminds us that there is never too much to know and there are not enough things to learn. We can learn about anything we want to learn about. Why not take a class or a workshop offered by the diocese? There are offices at the diocese who's sole purpose is to offer training and education for the faithful. We should take advantage of these programs to further our knowledge of our faith so we can know how to better live our faith in our lives.

Brothers, we are to live our life according to the things we know about and learn from God. We are sent forth from the Mass each week to take what we received; the Word of God, that is the Body, the Blood, the Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist along with the Gospel message and go out into the world and share it with others. The more we know about it the better we can put it into practice. The more we do this, the more our hearts will be attuned to Christ.

Being a member of the AOH also allows us to live a life of conversion, but my brothers, you must be an active member to see the fruits of our labors. The things we do as a group are what allows others to see

God in our lives and in our actions. If you have not been to a monthly meeting in a while, I encourage you to attend so you can be part of the planning process for the things that we do.

Each member brings a unique perspective and if one of us is missing, then we miss out on the opportunity to learn from one another and be a living witness of the affects that the Word of God has had in our lives.

don't get tired of seeing the same old faces at our meetings, but I would love to see some new ones. I am sure all who are at the meetings, feel the same way. When you get this newsletter, check the dates for the next meeting, mark it on your calendar, and plan to attend. Maybe your ears will be opened to how you can be a more active member and your mouth will proclaim the faith you have in your heart. For all that we do as members of the AOH does give glory and praise to God when we are providing a living witness to God by sharing with others that which we have received from God, in Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

**Mark Your Calendars**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024** for our next State Board meeting. The meeting will be held at Tara Hall in Columbus. More information to follow.

## 2023 - 2025 Officers

<b>Chaplain</b>	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
<b>President</b>	Dennis Parks <a href="mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com">dparks121@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Greg Brown <a href="mailto:Gbrownsamrock@yahoo.com">Gbrownsamrock@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	John Myers <a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	Chris Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Bob Harper <a href="mailto:harper.bg@pg.com">harper.bg@pg.com</a>
<b>National President</b>	Daniel J. O'Connell djoconnell@ysu.edu
<b>National Catholic Action</b>	Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
<b>National Project St. Patrick</b>	Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
<b>National Deputy Organizer</b>	Joseph M. Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
<b>National Oversight Committee</b>	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

## OHIO DIVISIONS

### County Division President

<b>Clermont</b>	Douglas Gerrard <a href="mailto:dpgerrard@aol.com">dpgerrard@aol.com</a>
<b>Cuyahoga Board</b>	Ben Neylon <a href="mailto:BNeylon@yahoo.com">BNeylon@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Cuyahoga #2</b>	Charles O'Neill oduffy317@aol.com
<b>Cuyahoga #3</b>	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
<b>Franklin #1</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hamilton #1</b>	Tim Oliver <a href="mailto:toliver33@live.com">toliver33@live.com</a>
<b>Lucas</b>	Robert McMahon <a href="mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com">aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mahoning #6</b>	Ray Kelly IV <a href="mailto:aohrpk@gmail.com">aohrpk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Medina</b>	Scott Manley scott.manley@assuredpartners.com
<b>Montgomery</b>	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
<b>Stark #1</b>	Tom Wolf tomwolfcpa@msn.com
<b>Summit Board</b>	Jim Meszaros <a href="mailto:meszi01@neo.rr.com">meszi01@neo.rr.com</a>
<b>Summit #2</b>	Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com
<b>Summit #3</b>	Michael Namsick <a href="mailto:mpnamsick@gmail.com">mpnamsick@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trumbull</b>	Marty McQuaide <a href="mailto:emcqu@aol.com">emcqu@aol.com</a>
<b>Washington</b>	James W. Farley <a href="mailto:jameswfarley04@gmail.com">jameswfarley04@gmail.com</a>

## Appointed Officers

<b>Catholic Action</b>	Patrick Lally <a href="mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com">lally8404@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Pro Life</b>	Dave Manley <a href="mailto:ruthannanddavid@gmail.com">ruthannanddavid@gmail.com</a>
<b>FFAI</b>	Patrick Williams <a href="mailto:karimcwilly@gmail.com">karimcwilly@gmail.com</a>
<b>PEC</b>	Mike Cosgrove irish.mick213@gmail.com
<b>Project St. Patrick</b>	Chris Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Missions &amp; Charities</b>	Chris Konik <a href="mailto:chriskonik@mindspring.com">chriskonik@mindspring.com</a>
<b>Organizer</b>	Joe Casey <a href="mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com">qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Finn <a href="mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com">FCoolavin@aol.com</a>
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Doug Gerrard dpgerard@aol.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

[jicasey973@gmail.com](mailto:jicasey973@gmail.com)

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



### 2024-2026 National Board



President Sean Pender, Vice President Liam McNabb, Secretary Ray Lynch, Treasurer Dan Devinney, Directors Rory Shulte, Ryan Curry, Ed Docherty, , Keith Reynolds, Tom Lambert, Patrick Ryan

### Hibernian Brothers from Ohio at the Convention



## **New AOH Pres stood beside victims of state violence for three decades and more.**

(A story in a Belfast paper the Andersontown News reacting to election of Sean Pender as National President of the AOH)

OUR past is not a tourist attraction. It is, however, definitely there for us to learn from, explore and share. It is certainly something that resides beside us, asking questions, demanding truth, justice and accountability. Painful, unresolved pasts are not postcards from the edge.

30 years after the IRA ceasefires, our community finds itself still having to assert its own narrative and battle for acknowledgement. There are scores of families seeking the common decency of the rule of law regarding the killings of their loved ones.

There are those living with the scars of torture and inhuman treatment and injury. It sometimes feels incongruous that this unresolved experience finds itself on a tourist map.

That is in no way to suggest that visitors who come to understand and express solidarity are few. Far from it. Peace makers, trade unionists, students from across the globe, come, learn, exchange and build lasting, valued relationships.

Of the latter, New Jersey man **Seán Pender** is a regular visitor, but no tourist. This week he was inaugurated President of the American Ancient Order of Hibernians. Seán is not your average visitor. He came to bear witness over 20 years ago. He walked into places of censorship, silences and horror.

He came to bear witness to victims of state violence. When the Ballymurphy families first came together to tell the story of the days of horror when their relatives were murdered with impunity and the campaign had barely begun, Seán stood like a sentinel at the back of the hall, listening. When Eamon Hughes sat telling how his father, Frank, had been abducted by loyalists and burned in his taxi, Seán was at his side respecting this sacred space.

When the family of Pat Finucane remembered the human rights lawyer's murder and the impunity of the British state, Seán bore witness. He came to inquest courts, to the Police Ombudsman with families and spoke with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice and Reparations in London. He can speak with authority on legacy better than many born and bred here.

His commitment to families over the past 25 years is second to none. He was central to the first US Congressional hearing on the matter of collusion. He has brought families affected by state and non-state violence to Capitol Hill for the US to remember their commitment to guaranteeing the human rights of all of us who live here post-Good Friday Agreement. He is central to the reason why the United States got involved in rejecting the Legacy Act and defending the rights of victims and survivors.

His humility, good grace, unending patience and capacity to understand, marks him out as one of the strongest, and most important leaders of Irish America, and he is a true son of Ireland.

He understood that coming here is not a tourist trip. We live in a site of conscience. Where those who choose to stand beside and listen to those harmed will understand the history of this nation, and the work that remains to be done.

Bearing witness creates a moral obligation for those who step into that space to act. Seán Pender not only acts, he moves mountains. That he cites Clara Reilly, Belfast's First Lady of Human Rights, as one of his heroes is testament to what motivates and drives him. He is truly worthy of his new office.

Comhghairdeas, ár anam-cara.

Andrée Murphy

Andrée Murphy hails from Dublin but has lived in Belfast since 1994. She is the Deputy Director of Relatives for Justice, a national victim support NGO which provides advocacy and therapeutic support for the bereaved and injured of the conflict. Holding a Masters Degree in international human rights law, Andrée's particular expertise and research on women affected by conflict trauma has seen her provide evidence to the United Nations in Geneva and to Congressional hearings in the US. Shes a columnist for Belfast Media Group and is a regular contributor to broadcast media, providing political analysis and commentary.

### **More National Convention News**

I hope this message finds all of you well. I'm happy to report that we had a good showing from Ohio at the 2024 AOH National Convention in Orlando, FL. I want to personally thank all the brothers who made the trip. It is my hope that we grow our delegation to every National Convention. If you have never attended a National Convention, you are missing a special time. Congratulations to brother Sean Pender from New Jersey who was elected and installed as our new National President. Other executive board members elected and installed were current National Treasurer Liam McNabb as Vice President, current appointed National Secretary Ray Lynch was officially elected and our current National Director Dan Devinney from Pennsylvania was elected and installed as National Treasurer. We will be getting a new National Director for Ohio in the coming weeks and I look forward to working closely with our newly elected executive board. The delegates voted on Omaha, Nebraska in 2026 and Atlantic City, NJ in 2028 as the next two convention sites. A special thanks to Ohio's own Danny O'Connell for all of his hard work as AOH National President. Thank you Danny "O" for your leadership and guidance of the AOH. From the electronic convention in 2020 during COVID all the way through last week, your leadership efforts showed. Not only does the Ohio AOH owe you a debt of gratitude, but the National AOH as well.

We now look forward to the Ohio AOH/LAOH State Convention June 26-29, 2025 in Akron.

Brothers, please mark you calendars for **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024** for our next State Board meeting. The meeting will be held at Tara Hall in Columbus. More information to follow.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

In Motto

Denny

### **FFAI State Chairman's Report**

#### **IS A UNITED IRELAND WITHIN REACH?**

As Ireland's next election quickly approaches, possibly taking place before the end of the year, the call for preparations for Ireland reunification is growing louder. From Brexit onward, the groundwork for Irish

unity has slowly been laid. A series of meetings being held by the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement suggest that the cause is becoming closer to reality. It would seem that the pieces are finally falling into place – Northern Ireland is set to hold three elections over the next five years with three major parties in full support of reunification. The political and religious climate in Northern Ireland has evolved, with Unionists now being in the minority and a waning Protestant populous. In fact, no specific religion is considered to hold a majority in the North.

Ben Collins, an East Belfast-born former pro-Unionist, is among the loudest calling for immediate preparations in his new book, "Irish Unity: Time to Prepare." Here, Ben not only proposes a series of steps to be taken ahead of a Border referendum, but

addresses the concerns of Unionists and skepticism of Republicans. Collins stresses the importance of a proactive approach within the island, both in policy and perception. A strong leadership will need to take initiative in implementing a strategically crafted cabinet that can take the reins on important initiatives such as healthcare and a strong economy. He also touches on methods of molding international perception of a united Ireland and taking advantage of programs already in place in the EU.

Collins' book is available for purchase in paperback or ebook at most major online retailers. To read more about the author and his conversion to the New Ireland [visit this link](#).

Patrick Williams

Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom For All Ireland State Chairman



## Division News

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

The Irish Brigade in Medina County co-hosted a Blood Drive with Our Lady of Grace parish on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Three phlebotomists from the American Red Cross drew a total of 27 pints during that afternoon's event. The division was told these donations equate to the saving of 84 lives.

Those who helped at the event, either setting up the night before, during the drive or afterwards were Bruce Dobbins, Brien DeWitt, Pete Chrystal, Tony Manley, Scott Manley, Dave Manley and Joe Casey.

Deacon Bruce Dobbins was the coordinator for the blood drive and plans on the division hosting more of these in the future to help give back to the community.

Joe Casey, Financial Secretary Irish Brigade Division



Deacon Bruce Dobbins



Tony Manley



AOH Information Table



The Irish Brigade Division #1 of Medina County recently presented a check from the division and cash from individuals to Susan Stone and Glenn Feldhake, volunteers at the Medina Raptor Center.

Division Chaplain, Deacon Bruce Dobbins rescued an injured barred owl (affectionately named Rupert) in June and it has been housed at the center ever since. The group of volunteers are trying to bring Rupert back to health so he can possibly be rehabilitated in the wild in the near future.

For more information on the Medina Raptor Center, go to their website [www.medinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.medinaraptorcenter.org).

### Bluestone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co

Most of you are gearing up for Orlando and the Bluestone Division wishes you safe travels and a great convention. There are a couple events we would like to share to provide the opportunity to "save the date."

- 1) Halfway to St. Patrick's Day. 9/17 Guardians game @ 6:40pm. Paul Davis Pennant District is the top level in right field and is a great space (large area) to enjoy the game. Bluestone will have a pregame at the Flat Iron, upstairs, in the Flats. Irish Buffett with bangers, shepherds pie and salmon- mash/veggies/salad/wash for \$25. Flat Iron has a complementary shuttle to and from the game. Parking is \$3.
- 2) Hibernian Mass @ the Seminary. 9/22. Mass is @ 10am and brunch will follow at 11am in their dining hall. It is always impressive to spend time with the seminarians, the parish leaders of tomorrow. <https://www.borromeoseminary.org/>

For more information, contact Robert Mullin at [bobbymulls@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbymulls@yahoo.com)

## 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.

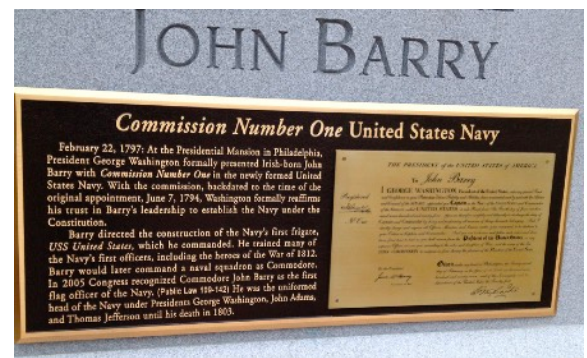
On March 10, 1783, Barry, aboard the “Alliance” won the last sea battle of the American Revolution when, while escorting a shipment of funds vital to the new nation, he engaged and avoided capture by the British ship “Sybille”.

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 Historian's Report

### Monsignor Edward Joseph Flanagan

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan (Diocese of Waterford and Linsmore, Ireland) has been selected as the inaugural **Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity Award** recipient for 2024.

The award will be presented on Friday, August 9, 2024, during the Irish Night banquet at the 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention in Florida. It is conferred to an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment or other forms of societal neglect.

It is possible that some may not be aware of who Father Edward J. Flanagan was, so the following is a biography.

Edward Joseph Flanagan (pictured) was born in the town land of Leabeg, County Roscommon, Ireland near the village of Ballymoe, County Galway. His parents were John (a herdsman) and Honoria Flanagan.

Edward attended Summerhill College in Sligo, Ireland. In 1904, he immigrated to the United States with his sister Nellie. He attended Mount St. Mary's University in Emmetsburg, Maryland, where in 1906 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Flanagan entered St. Joseph Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York. Having contracted double pneumonia, Flanagan was forced to take a year off from his studies to recover, and stayed with his brother, Father Patrick Flanagan, in Omaha, Nebraska, with Nellie serving as both housekeeper and nurse.

He then continued his studies in Rome, living at the Capranica while taking classes at Gregorian University. He returned home to Omaha due to his health in the winter of 1908 and took an accounting job at Cudahy Packing Company. Flanagan returned to Europe the following autumn, entering the Royal Imperial Leopold Francis University in Innsbruck, Austria, where he was ordained a priest in 1912.

He returned to the US, where his first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in O'Neill, Nebraska. He was then transferred to St. Patrick's Church in Omaha and was present during the tornado outbreak of March 1913 responding to the dead and injured. In 1916, Flanagan established a homeless shelter for transient workers. He became a US citizen in 1919.

Father Flanagan was moved by the plight of homeless and delinquent youth. In 1917, he founded a home for homeless boys in Omaha. Bishop Jeremiah James Harty of the Diocese of Omaha had misgivings, but endorsed Flanagan's experiment of housing and education. Because the downtown facilities were inadequate, Flanagan established **Boys Town**, ten miles west of Omaha, in 1921.

Under Father Flanagan's direction, Boys Town grew to be a large community with its own boy-mayor, schools, chapel, post office, cottages, gymnasium, and other facilities. Boys between the ages of 10 and 16 could receive an education here and learn a trade. Flanagan did not believe in the reform school model, which he thought too punitive, and stated, *"there's no such thing as a bad boy."* In 1937 Pope Pius XI named him as a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor.

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### **State Historian's Report, cont.**

His work with homeless boys became widely known, especially after the 1938 release of an MGM film about his life, *Boys Town*, starring Spencer Tracy as Father Flanagan and Mickey Rooney as one of the homeless boys. Flanagan was allowed to review the script before filming, some of which took place at the complex. Tracy won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance; he talked about Flanagan at his acceptance speech, saying "If you have seen him through me, then I thank you." An Oscar statuette, dedicated to Flanagan by Tracy, was also given to Boys Town.

Flanagan served on several committees and boards dealing with the welfare of children. He also published articles on child welfare. General Douglas MacArthur, who was leading the Allied occupation of Japan, invited Fr Flanagan to Japan and Korea in 1947 to advise on child welfare. He also invited him to review conditions the next year in occupied territory in Austria and Germany, where Flanagan traveled in 1948.

While he was in Germany, Father Flanagan died on May 15, 1948 of a heart attack. His body was returned to the United States. He is interred at Dowd Memorial Chapel of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Boys Town, Nebraska.

On February 25, 2012, the Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha opened the canonization process for Father Flanagan. At a March 17, 2012 prayer service at Boys Town's Immaculate Conception Church, he was given the title, "Servant of God." This is the first of four titles bestowed in the process of canonization as a saint. The local investigation was completed in June 2015, including documentation of miracles, and the results forwarded to the Vatican.



### **State Organizer's Report**

Summer is quickly passing and soon we will be "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day". I know some of the divisions will be celebrating at their halls or places in their areas. Whether you have a formal celebration or merely go out for dinner, be sure to wear your division shirts. They may be conversation-starters which could result in new members. Some brothers are having business cards made up that include the new QR code so the prospective applicant can merely scan the code and fill out the application electronically.

I hope to have the contact information soon that you can view the different breakout sessions that were held on Zoom prior to the convention. The two Organizer sessions were very good and I highly recommend the Division Presidents and their Organizers view them. As was mentioned, "Everyone is responsible for recruitment".

As always, if anyone knows of an area that might be prime for a new division, please get with Denny Parks and/or myself and we can follow up.

Thank you and Happy Halfway!

Joe Casey, State Organizer, [qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com)

## **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. 3	Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor	Memorial
Sept. 9	Peter Claver	Memorial
Sept. 13	John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial
Sept. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast
Sept. 16	Cornelius, Pope and Martyr; Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr	Memorial
Sept. 17	Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor; Hildegard of Bingen	
Sept. 20	Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs	Memorial
Sept. 21	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Feast
Sept. 23	Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	Memorial
Sept. 27	Vincent de Paul, Priest	Memorial
Sept. 30	Jerome, Priest and Doctor	Memorial

### **ST. FRANCIS AND THE STIGMATA**

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14), 1224, Francis of Assisi received a vision of a seraph bearing the image of Jesus crucified. As the vision faded, Francis received the wounds of the crucified Jesus, which remained with him till his death two years later. The Feast of the Stigmata is celebrated in the Franciscan calendar on September 17. This is the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event.

### **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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**Catholic Action, cont.****Sept. 4      Ultan, Bishop (d.657)**

Probably bishop of Ardraccan, 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. 7      Grimonía, Virgin and Martyr**

Grimonía was the daughter of a pagan Irish chief. As a teenager, she converted to Christianity and took a vow of virginity. She fled to the Continent to escape being forced into marriage and lived as a hermitess in the forests of Picardy. The cause of her death is uncertain. She may have been slain defending her chastity against marauders, or her father's retainers who had discovered her refuge may have killed her for refusing to return.

**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. 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, and also composed a travelogue of the East, based upon the account of a Frankish bishop who was shipwrecked near Iona on his way home from Jerusalem.

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**Catholic Action, cont.**

**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.

**Sept. 26      Colman of Lann Elo**    Abbot (c. 555-611)

There are a number of sainted Colmans. This Colman was a native of Tyrone, a nephew and protege of St. Columba. About 590, he built a monastery in Offaly called Lann Elo (Lynally).

**STATE NEWS OF INTEREST**

**August 7:** A new Ohio law limiting gender-affirming care for minors and protecting female sports and athletes from men who identify as women is now free to go into effect, after a Franklin County judge cleared an injunction against it. The law has been blocked for months by court action. The ACLU will appeal the decision.

**August 23:** Fallout from the ballot issue of 2023 which enshrined abortion as a constitutional right in Ohio continues: Franklin County Common Pleas Judge David Young has issued a temporary injunction against Ohio's 24-hour waiting period after an initial appointment before having an abortion. The injunction as well covers Ohio's informed consent law which was designed to let women know alternatives to abortion.

**Ohio's March for Life is in Columbus October 4. Are you planning to attend?**

--This November we face a very important election. We need to vote in tune with a well-formed Catholic conscience.

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## **The Commission on the Future of Ireland: Our Chance to Engage is Now**

Judge Michael C. Mentel\*

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald announced in July of 2022 that Belfast would be the site for the first People's Assembly. The Assembly was held in October of that year. The Assembly was formed at the direction of the Commission on the Future of Ireland. President McDonald stated in her announcement that "this is an opportunity for citizens to have their say on the future of Ireland; our economy, our constitutional arrangements; political and democratic structures and governance; the role of the Irish government; [and] the rights and equality agenda..." in addition to other important considerations such as health care and pensions. President McDonald added that the "Commission on the Future of Ireland is also an opportunity for alternative proposals to be presented by those with different visions of Ireland." Now, the Commission on the Future of Ireland is giving the Irish diaspora in the United States the opportunity to voice their unique views and perspectives on the future of a new United Ireland in complement to the perspectives voiced from Ireland.

Multiple People's Assemblies are being held in cities throughout the United States. They are intended to provide an avenue for the Irish diaspora in the United States to offer their perspectives on a new Ireland. During a conversation with Greg O'Loughlin, the Executive Director of Friends of Sinn Féin in the United States, he emphasized that the Assemblies are not focused on complex Irish constitutional provisions or policy issues, nor are attendees expected to delve into such complex issues. The goal of the Commission is to obtain the unique viewpoints of the Irish diaspora in the United States and to find out how they envision a new Ireland. These viewpoints for a new Ireland are valuable and may be ones that would not be considered otherwise except for the People's Assembly. To be clear, the

People's Assemblies are not intended to be a simple get together of Irish diaspora for a feel good moment. The Assemblies are conducting real work. They are a component part of a planning process in the preparation for the unification of Ireland; and to that end attendees should feel good about their participation. The initial input from these Assemblies is just the beginning. The Commission will continue to engage with Irish diaspora on a regular basis following the initial Assembly session.

The likelihood of a boarder poll on Irish unification within the next six years is real. "We've run the numbers, and it is adding up to a vote in 2030 that will create a United Ireland" declared President McDonald during the Irish Unity summit in New York City earlier this year. She added, "...we need to rally the United States to the reunification agenda. We are hitting a reset button here. It is part of the same journey, but it has a different focus now. There will be a [U.S.] presidential election in the autumn. Irish reunification: why is that not a question for whoever occupies the White House at that time?" A good question indeed. Declan Kearney, Sinn Féin MLA and Chair of the Commission on the Future of Ireland, shares President McDonald's viewpoint. Mr. Kearney has stated that, "the transition towards constitutional change and a new national, democratic, framework of governance in Ireland needs to be carefully planned and resourced... Irish unity has become the defining issue for our generation. The debate on future constitutional change is now [center] stage... There is a new future for Ireland waiting to be authored. One which is positive, progressive, inclusive, anti-sectarian, & multi-cultural. We can do this together. But we need to prepare and plan."

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## **The Commission on the Future of Ireland:**

### **Our Chance to Engage is Now, cont.**

Dr. Brendan O’Leary, Political Science Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, speaking at the Irish Unity Summit in New York earlier this year, opined that political support for unification is growing albeit such support would not exist today. The necessity of addressing multifaced cultural, economic, and governing issues must be resolved if voters in Ireland are to be made comfortable with unification. A critical factor to the realization of unification is the involvement of the United States and the Irish diaspora. Summit presenters in New York emphasized that major support from the United States is vital to making any unification plan workable.

Sinn Féin is gaining momentum in the growing Catholic communities of the north, parallel to the support it sees in the south. Among that support in north are those who are 30 years old and younger. These young women and men are disenchanted with Brexit and the north’s separation from the European Union. They are looking for a change economically, politically, and multi-culturally. The perspectives of these young women and men are ones that will be addressed in the planning initiative on Irish unification. The Irish diaspora in the United States can offer perspectives on these same issues. Our perspectives offered at the Assemblies in the United

States will fit hand in glove with the Assembly work conducted in Ireland. One such example is economics. While Ireland must internally address certain economic challenges when unification occurs, the viewpoints from the Irish diaspora in the United States could provide perspectives on how we see our government working with Ireland. There are multiple issues open for discussion that will mutually coincide with the Assembly discussions both here and in Ireland.

The planning process for a United Ireland is now upon us. The momentum for unification in Ireland is growing, making a border poll on the question inevitable. The Commission on the Future of Ireland is giving the Irish diaspora in this country the opportunity and privilege to participate in the discussion and planning for a United Ireland. Each of us should take this opportunity to participate in the People’s Assembly and provide our perspectives for the future of Ireland.

**For us in central Ohio, the opportunity to participate in a People’s Assembly is set. The Assembly will take place on October 10, 2024 at the Shamrock Club of Columbus. at 60 W. Castle Rd. 43207.** Additional information on this Assembly will be provided soon.

*\*Judge Michael C. Mentel is the Presiding Judge on the Ohio Court of Appeals Tenth District and a member of Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.*