

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
4 February 2024

President Mark Roddy called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. 19 members were in attendance.

Officer Roll Call:

President	Mark Roddy (P)
Vice President	Peter O'Neill (P)
Interim Recording Secretary	Jim Noone (P)
Financial Secretary	Fred Parker (E)
Treasurer	Phil Torrey (P)
Chaplain	Fr. Peffley (E)
Chairman, Standing Committees	Fred Burgess (P)
Marshal	Peter Garry (E)
Sentinel	John Murphy (P)
Historian	Jim Noone (P)
Parliamentarian	John Murphy (P)
Chairman, Charities & Missions	Joe Boyle (P)
Chairman, Catholic Action	Peter O'Neill (P)
Chairman, Freedom for All Ireland	John Murphy (P)
Chairman, Pro-Life	Fred Burgess (P)
Chairman, Political Education Committee	Kevin O'Brien (P)
Chairman, Project St. Patrick	Mark Roddy (p)
Chairman, Immigration Affairs	Ed Lacey (E)

Previous Meeting Minutes: The reading of the minutes from the Division's January meeting was waived.

Correspondence: A letter from Food for Others thanking the Division for a \$350 donation. Executive Director Deb Haynes said that with the Division's support, Food for Others is growing with the need in the community.

Membership: Fred Parker said there's been no change in membership, with 38 regular members, 3 military, and 5 clergy.

Committee Reports:

- Charities and Missions (Joe Boyle)
 - The Knights of Columbus recently solicited help for a family from Ireland with young children. The father lost his construction job because he injured his foot in car accident; the family is in dire needs. Joe made a motion to provide \$500

to the family and it was passed. It was also noted that the family could get food from charitable organizations like Food for Others.

- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
 - It's time to prepare for the 40 days of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. The three important pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. There are manifold resources to assist: The diocese, parishes, and media like the *Catholic Herald*.
 - The Men's Conference in the Diocese will be on Saturday, March 2, at St. Joseph's Church in Herndon. See Peter Garry if you need a ride.
 - Pete noted that there are numerous Catholic podcasts that can be very helpful.
 - The Virginia General Assembly is considering certain bills that can be harmful, such as assisted suicide and surrogacy.

- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)
 - John said that while many in Northern Ireland want to stay with the United Kingdom, the only long-term solution is unification with the Republic of Ireland. Something is moving in that direction; it's in the wind.

- Pro Life (Fred Burgess)
 - Fred reported that under the FACE Act (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance), six pro-life activists singing in a hallway outside of an abortion clinic near Nashville, TN, were found guilty of "obstructive conduct" to "interfere with the right to seek . . . reproductive health services." They're expected to appeal.
 - The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice lists over 20 FACE Act prosecutions against abortion clinics; only one against a pregnancy resource clinic.
 - On March 26 the Supreme Court will hear arguments reviewing an appeals court ruling that scaled back how far into pregnancy the abortion drug of mifepristone can be prescribed and how it can be distributed.
 - In January the House passed two bills: (1) Pregnant Students Right Act requires higher education institutions using federal student aid programs to provide campus or community resources, accommodations, and certain information to students on the rights and resources to pregnant students or who may become pregnant to carry a baby to term. (2) Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act questions whether expenditures made to women only after they become pregnant would be considered unreasonable expenses. The bill prohibits use of the regulation for state expenditures supporting the life of the mother and unborn child and offering support to mothers, fathers, and families.
 - The Virginia March for Life in Richmond will be on Feb. 21, 7:30-noon. Information can be found on the March for Life website.

- During his global diplomatic address, Pope Francis called surrogacy “deplorable” and called for a worldwide ban on it. Surrogacy is wrong because it enables people to act as if they are entitled to another’s reproductive abilities.
- Finally, Fred told a heart-warming story: Two newly married graduates of Franciscan University last October were into their honeymoon; the husband died in a water-skiing accident. Just before Thanksgiving the wife found out she was pregnant. Instead of focusing on the loss of her husband, she expressed thanks for the gift of the life she received from God.

Financial Secretary: Fred Parker noted that Angelus Academy was conducting a shoe drive to assist in the operation of the Academy and provide shoes to those in need abroad. The Division collected 986 pairs of shoes with an estimated thrift store value of approximately \$15,000.

In the Division’s 2023 report to State and National, he reported that the Division gave \$1,000 for AOH missions and charities, and additional cash contributions of \$8,965.10. In addition, hours spent in the value of non-cash contributions amounted to \$5,289.44. He emphasized the importance of keeping track of hourly contributions.

Treasurer’s Report: Phil Torrey reported that the Division’s current bank balance is \$20,218.71. He noted that \$9,105 in December’s end-of-the year checks were sent out.

New Business:

- **Meetings:** The AOH State meeting was last month. The National meeting will be in Orlando, FL, Aug. 7-11. State President Jay McCarthy is running for National president.
- **The Bears:** A motion was moved and passed to buy \$300 worth of small doll-like bears with an AOH label on them. The bears made an appearance at the State meeting.
- **SPDD:** The St. Patrick’s Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, March 16, in Farrell Hall. Tickets are \$40. Once again there will be a silent auction. A disc jockey is needed.
- **New Division:** A new AOH Division is starting up in Warrenton, VA.
- **Gaelic Mass:** A Gaelic mass is scheduled for Monday, March 11, at St. James Church in Falls Church.
- **AOH Shirts:** AOH shirts will be sold at the cost of \$34, with \$7 more to have your name on the shirt. There will be more information later this month when orders will be taken. Short-sleeved shirts will also be available. John Murphy is the POC.
- **St. Brigid:** The second patron saint of Ireland, St. Brigid’s feast day in Ireland was on Feb. 1. The 1,500th anniversary of her death is this year. There is a festival Feb. 1-15, with a conference and other events marking the milestone.

- ***Fish Fry***: The Knights of Columbus are having fish frys every Friday during lent, Feb. 16-March 22, 5 to 6:30 pm in Farrell Hall. Volunteers are needed.
- ***Coloring Contest***: Kevin O'Brien said the State AOH is again sponsoring a St. Patrick coloring contest for grades 1-4 in Catholic elementary schools. There are 3 winners in each grade. The goal is to teach the children about St. Patrick.
- ***St. Jude Relic***: A relic of St. Jude will be at Nativity Church in Burke on Feb. 9; veneration 2-10 pm; mass at 7 pm.
- ***Events***: Mike Torrey said that a Trivia Night – a question-and-answer event on various issues – would be better than a golf tournament in raising funds and attracting new and young members. It could be done in-person or, more likely, online. It wouldn't take much work since the questions/answers have already been done.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone reported on two matters:

1. The Abbey Theatre in Dublin was founded in 1904 and is still operating. Also known as the National Theatre of Ireland, it's one of the country's most famous cultural institutions. He described many of Ireland's most notable playwrights whose plays ran at the Abbey Theatre. Among them was Ireland's most famous poet, W.B. Yeats.
2. He told the story of how St. Valentine of the third century ended up in the Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin. On Valentine's Day many Dubliners visit the church and pay their respects to St. Valentine, the patron saint of love.

Prayer Intentions: Prayers were offered for the intentions and individuals on our prayer list.

The meeting concluded at 2:17 p.m.

NOTE 1: After the meeting Division officers moved to the Historic Church where there was an installation ceremony. The presiding officer for the officer installation was Patrick Sullivan, AOH VA State Treasurer.

NOTE 2: Other Division members joined the Associates in the adjoining hall and participated in singing Irish songs, as was the case after the January meeting. In honor of Valentine's Day this month, the lovely songs were "The Rose of Tralee," "Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms," and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Noone, Interim Recording Secretary