

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
5 December 2021

The meeting came to order at 1:06 PM, chaired by President Kevin O'Brien. 12 Members were present.

Officer Roll Call:

President	Kevin O'Brien (P)
Vice President	John Murphy (E)
Recording Secretary	Ed Lacey (P)
Financial Secretary	Fred Parker (P)
Treasurer	Phil Torrey (P)
Chaplain	Fr. Peffley (E)
Chairman, Standing Committee	Fred Burgess (P)
Marshal	Mick Torrey (E)
Sentinel	Peter O'Neill (P)
Historian	Jim Noone (P)
Parliamentarian	John Murphy (E)
Chairman, Charities & Missions	Joe Boyle (E)
Chairman, Catholic Action	Peter O'Neill (P)
Chairman, Freedom for All Ireland	John Murphy (E)
Chairman, Pro-Life	Fred Burgess (P)

Previous Meeting Minutes: Recording Secretary Ed Lacey read the minutes of the meeting of 7 November. The minutes were approved. It also was agreed to post future meeting minutes on the Division Web Site, in the "Members Only" section, if feasible.

Correspondence: The Division received a very nice thank you note from the St. Mary's Preschool for our recent donation; a letter from Bethany House requesting a donation; and a letter from the AOH National Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) Committee Chairman requesting Division and individual donations to the FFAI Christmas Appeal.

Committee Reports:

- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) met in mid-November, and issued two important documents – one on the Eucharist, and the other on Marriage and the Family. The Conference elaborated a three year plan focused on the Eucharist leading up to a Eucharistic Conference in 2024. The Bishops also placed the Feast Day of Mother Theresa in the Liturgical Calendar.

- Advent preparations are encouraged, focusing on prayer, service, self-sacrifice, and Eucharistic Adoration, including 40 Hours Devotion.
- In light of recent public school board decisions nationwide with respect to morality, the value of Catholic School education is particularly notable.
- Peter highly recommended the book *The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen* to the membership.
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - The U.S. Supreme Court is in the midst of considering the constitutionality of the Mississippi Gestational Age Act that would ban abortions after 15 weeks – this being the age of fetal viability as defined in the Act.
 - The Governor of Mississippi has declared this case to be a “watershed moment in American history.”
 - Many pro-life supporters are hoping this case could overturn the *Roe* and *Casey* rulings that over time have legalized abortions up to the moment of birth.
- Finance (Fred Parker)
 - The Finance Committee met in November and gave tentative approval to the 2022 budget prepared by Fred. The budget was developed on the basis of our pre-pandemic levels. To meet the charitable contributions included in the 2022 budget, the Division will need to raise a net of \$6,800.00.
 - With respect to the 2021 budget, eight members have agreed to make financial contributions for specific charitable donations on behalf of the Division. As a consequence of their generosity, only our donations to the St. Mary of Sorrows Church and the TEACH organization will have to be financed from Division funds.
 - The money raised by the Associates with their Fall Tea will be held in escrow for them to dispense as charitable donations on an ad hoc basis.

Membership: Our current membership is unchanged: 53 total – 44 regular Members, 5 Clergy, and 4 Active-duty Military.

Treasurer’s Report: Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$14,607.17. Of this, \$2,370.00 is pre-committed to ticket holders and sponsors of our St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance. Additionally, some \$2,100.00 in previously approved donations will be paid out this month.

Unfinished Business:

- *Assistance to St. Mary’s Parish:* President Kevin O’Brien reminded members that Fr. Barkett had asked if we could help out as Ushers, with Eucharistic Adoration, and with live-streaming Sunday Masses. He noted that he has received a few responses,

but not many. He also emphasized that none of this was hard – training was available for the live streaming, and no one was being asked to cover all the Sunday Masses.

- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** The event is scheduled for 12 March. Set up will be that morning. Phil Torrey has secured tentative agreement from Auld Shebeen to cater the event, provided that Division members serve the food. Much work needs to be done in preparation for the event including advertising, ticket sales, obtaining a liquor license, preparing items for the silent auction, and securing the services of a Disc Jockey. President O'Brien will convene a small planning meeting in the near term.
- ***Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade:*** Pat McGinty said that it has not yet been determined if there will be a parade in the coming year. But if there is, the Division will need to decide if it wishes to continue to march in the parade. Past years' attendance by members has been very minimal – in some years, insufficient to field a color guard.
- ***Wreaths Across America:*** The event on 18 December, is not being co-sponsored by the Division, although a number of members will be participating.
- ***Other events in 2022:*** The Division will be taking the lead on setting up the tent for the Easter Sunrise Service at St. Mary of Sorrows, and planting flags in the cemetery on Memorial Day. We also will be involved in the Ox Hill Battlefield commemoration ceremony on 2 September.

New Business:

- St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance: As noted above.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone spoke about the ending of the Irish War for Independence and the founding of the Irish Free State. The Anglo-Irish Treaty ending the war was signed on 6 December 1921 – 100 years ago tomorrow. One of the principal negotiators on the Irish side was Michael Collins. The Treaty was highly controversial in Ireland, and at the signing Collins is reported to have prophetically stated “I have just signed my own death warrant.” Opponents of the Treaty objected in particular to the partition of Ireland (which was supposed to be temporary) and to the requirement for Irish officials to take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. The Treaty was narrowly approved by a vote of 4 to 3 in the Irish Cabinet, and 64 to 57 in the Parliament. The resulting disharmony led to the Civil War which began in June 1922 and ended in May 1923 with the defeat of the Treaty opponents – and along the way, on 22 August 1922, with the death of

Michael Collins. Thereafter, the Irish Free State – predecessor of the Republic of Ireland – was established.

Jim also noted the passing of Paddy Maloney, who died on 12 October of this year. Maloney was one of the founding members of the world-famous traditional Irish Music band, *The Chieftans*.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- Freedom For All Ireland: Mike Torrey pointed out that 97% of the funds raised by the AOH FAFI initiative goes to the people of Ireland.
- The Chosen – Christmas Movie: Fred Parker noted that the new movie will be shown at St. Mary of Sorrows on 14 December. Tickets are required and are on sale for \$11.00 each.
- New Year’s Celebration in Ireland: Kevin O’Brien said that the Auld Shebeen televises the arrival of the New Year in Ireland at 7:00 PM on 31 December – 12:00 midnight in Ireland. Patrons can remain and celebrate the arrival of the new year in Fairfax five hours later!

Prayer Intentions: Prayers were offered.

The meeting concluded at 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary