**Father William Corby Division**

 Monthly Meeting Minutes

 6 February 2022

The meeting came to order at 1:03 PM, chaired by President Kevin O’Brien. 12 Members were present.

**Officer Roll Call:**

President Kevin O’Brien (P)

Vice President John Murphy (P)

Recording Secretary Ed Lacey (P)

Financial Secretary Fred Parker (E)

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 (E)

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)

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Recording Secretary Ed Lacey read the minutes of the meeting of 9 January. The minutes were approved.

**Correspondence:** The Division received thank you letters for our donations from Food for Others and The Compassion Friends, as well as the Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter of Toward Educating America’s Children (TEACH).

**Committee Reports:**

* Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
* The Diocesan Men’s Conference will be held on 5 March at St. Joseph’s Parish in Herndon. The Diocesan Women’s Conference will be held a week later.
* On Saturday, 13 February, St. Timothy’s Parish will host a “Celebration of Marriage” Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by a communal supper.
* The Virginia March for Life will be held next weekend in Richmond.
* Lent starts on 2 March.
* Bishop Burbidge has authorized Parishes in the Diocese that are holding the Traditional Latin Mass (TLM) to continue the practice. However, he has prohibited Parishes that are not currently holding the TLM from doing so. Some 2,800 people have signed a petition urging the Bishop to support the TLM and associated practices.
* The Pope is continuing his outreach to other Christian faiths. At the same time, however, in a disturbing trend Catholic Church leaders in Germany and Switzerland are increasingly challenging Church teaching on issues of faith and morals.
* Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
* The Annual March for Life was held on 21 January. A number of speakers at the rally preceding the march offered very powerful, personal testimony, in opposition to abortion.
* On 31 January, the National Right to Life Committee released a comprehensive 72 page report on *The State of Abortion in the United States.*
* The abortion lobby has been unrelenting in promoting tele-medical chemical abortions where abortion-inducing chemicals can be received through the mail, without ever seeing a Medical Doctor. These type of abortions have been proven to be quite harmful to women, in addition to killing the pre-born baby. At present, 43.7% of abortions in the United States are performed in this manner.
* A number of states have banned abortions after some number of weeks. But in many cases, courts have blocked implementation of these bans. In Virginia, a bill has been newly introduced in the House of Delegates to ban abortions once a pregnancy reaches 20 weeks.
* Fred recommended a book entitled *Let Yourself Be Loved: Big Lessons From A Little Life* by a woman who at age 43 knowingly gave birth to a baby with a genetic disorder. Even though she knew the baby had little chance to survive, she refused to terminate her pregnancy. The baby lived just 28 hours and 10 minutes.
* Freedom For All Ireland (John Murphy)
* A number of organizations in Ireland are in need of funds to support litigation efforts aimed at righting wrongs that were perpetrated during the so-called Troubles.
* This is particularly important as the British Government is now denying that there was ever any British involvement in any of the wrongdoing.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at $14,897.97. Member dues are still being collected.

**Unfinished Business:**

* ***Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade:*** Pat McGinty reported that the parade has been postponed until 26 March. He suspects that it may ultimately be canceled this year.
* ***Memorial Day:*** President Kevin O’Brien said that, as per the motion adopted at our 9 January meeting, he had reached out to KofC 4th Degree Assembly 3596 asking if they would care to provide a Color Guard for the Division Memorial Day Ceremony at St. Mary’s Cemetery this year. He has not yet received a response.
* ***St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance:*** Several Members reported on preparations for the forthcoming Dinner Dance. President O’Brien confirmed that the date (12 March) and location (Farrell Hall) for the event has been locked in, as has a Disc Jockey. Mark Roddy has secured a caterer for the event (Sullivan’s) and noted that the balance is now due for the remainder of the down payment. The liquor license is on track, and a supply of wine is on hand. Mark has printed 160 tickets. He also will be contacting the Squire Roses about serving the dinner. Mark also is looking at additional possible sponsors. Mike Torrey is soliciting possible donations from local businesses for the Silent Auction. Fred Burgess has arranged for the printing of the program (at no cost to the Division). Ed Lacey has begun selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle. President O’Brien intends to hold another planning meeting in the near-term.

**New Business:**

* ***Scholarships:*** Due to our ongoing financial constraints, a motion to forgo sponsoring student scholarships in 2022 was unanimously approved.
* ***Appreciation Brunch:*** At this time, we expect to hold the annual Members Appreciation Brunch in June.
* ***Golf Tournament:*** Mike Torrey suggested we consider holding a Golf Tournament fund raiser in October.
* ***Installation of Officers:*** We will need to hold an installation ceremony early this year.
* ***Shamrock Degree:***  The Division also will plan to conduct a Shamrock Degree induction ceremony this year.

**Historian’s Report:**

Historian Jim Noone submitted a written report on Saint Brigid, one of Ireland’s three Patron Saints. Ed Lacey read the report to the assembled members. Of note, it was recently announced that starting next year her feast day, 1 February, will be a public holiday in Ireland.

**Good & Welfare of the Order:**

* There was nothing to report.

**Prayer Intentions:** Prayers were offered.

The meeting concluded at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary