

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
5 February 2023

The meeting came to order at 1:04 PM, chaired by President Kevin O'Brien. 14 Members attended the meeting.

Officer Roll Call:

President	Kevin O'Brien (P)
Vice President	Peter O'Neill (P)
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	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)

Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was approved.

Correspondence: The Division received thank you letters for our donations from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Healthy Teeth Journey of Hope, Food for Others, The Compassionate Friends, St. Mary of Sorrows Preschool, George Mason University Catholic Patriots, and Toward Educating America's Children (TEACH). It also received a very nice, hand-written note from State AOH Chaplain Fr. Farrell.

Committee Reports:

- President's Report (Kevin O'Brien)
 - On 28 January, the Division very successfully hosted the State AOH Quarterly meeting, as well as a Tower Degree ceremony. 13 AOH Members participated in the Degree ceremony, including three from our Division.
 - The Division is participating in the State AOH St. Patrick coloring contest, and has provided the necessary contest materials to six Catholic Elementary Schools in our area.

- Preparations are moving forward for our St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance next month. We have booked a caterer (with much thanks to Mark Roddy) and a Disc Jockey (with much thanks to Fred Burgess).
- Finance (Fred Parker)
 - The 2023 Division Draft Budget awaits review by the Finance Committee.
 - Beginning in January 2024, per capita membership dues will increase by \$4.00 for the National AOH and \$3.00 for the State. The Division will have to vote on how much we want to increase individual membership dues.
- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)
 - The Division has increased its donation to the AOH Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) fund to \$1,000.00.
 - We will solicit additional funding by individuals at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance.
- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
 - Lent starts on 22 February, with the emphasis on prayer, fasting, and alms giving.
 - The Diocesan Men's Conference will be held on 4 March, and the Women's Conference on 11 March.
 - The Biden Administration continues its assault on Catholic teaching and institutions. Most recently, the Department of Health and Human Services has proposed a new rule that would require all Catholic institutions to provide worker health care coverage that pays for contraceptives and abortions.
 - We are also seeing a disturbing rise in Satanism and Satanic worship in the country – witness the erection of a demonic statue on the grounds of a Courthouse in New York.
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - The annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. last month drew a huge crowd of pro-life demonstrators.
 - The Biden Administration continues to press its pro-abortion agenda. A recent White House memo directed the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to issue guidance on how to obtain chemical abortion pills in states where abortion is either illegal or restricted, as well as calling on Federal Departments and Agencies to draw up recommendations to remove potential barriers to abortion pill access.
 - The Administration is promoting greater access to chemical abortions, even though such abortions have been proven to present a 50% greater risk of medical complications for the mother when compared to surgical abortions.
 - On 11 January, the House of Representatives voted to approve the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This Act – if approved by the Democrat-controlled Senate and signed by President Biden -- both considered unlikely – would

- require that babies surviving a botched abortion attempt be given the same medical assistance as normal births. 210 Representatives – all Democrats – voted against the measure.
- A Virginia State version of the Act is pending.
 - On 1 February, pro-life advocates held a rally and lobbying event at the Virginia Capital in Richmond. Division Member Joe McKane from Nativity Parish attended and directly participated in the lobbying effort.

Membership: Fred Parker reported that our membership remains unchanged.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$18,617.72. He also noted that he has acquired a new device to permit credit card/debit card/cell phone payments for silent auction items at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance.

Unfinished Business:

- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** President O'Brien stated that planning and preparations for the Dinner Dance are continuing. Members were each invited to donate a bottle of liqueur for the silent auction baskets being assembled by the Associates.
- ***Shamrock Degree:*** Ed Lacey again noted that a Shamrock Degree induction ceremony for the Division is still pending. There are a number of Members who have not yet obtained this degree.
- ***Installation of Officers:*** President O'Brien said he would like to hold the installation at our next meeting in March. The only question is whether our own Mike Torrey – a State AOH Officer – can stand in for the State AOH President.

New Business:

- ***Beer Tasting Fund Raiser:*** John Murphy said he had attended a Beer Tasting Fund Raiser sponsored by the Kelly Division. The event was held in collaboration with a local brewery. We may want to consider something similar going forward.
- ***St. Patrick's Day Parade:*** Pat McGinty noted that there would be a parade this year in Alexandria on 4 March. Past participation by the Division has been scant, and there appeared to be no interest in participating this year.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone told us about Saint Brigid, whose Feast Day had just passed on 1 February. She is one of the two Patron Saints of Ireland, along with Saint Patrick. Her Feast Day has just been

declared a National Holiday in the Irish Republic. Born a pagan in the year 450, she was converted to Christianity by Saint Patrick. She went on to found many convents throughout Ireland, the most famous perhaps, being the Abbey of Kildare. She died on 1 February 525 at the age of 75. Many people today wear the Saint Brigid's Cross, originally woven from reeds and shoots taken from the fields. To this day it's believed by many that the Cross protects a house from fire and evil, and blesses all who enter.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- Pat McGinty's Birthday: Pat invited Members to join him at the Auld Shebeen to celebrate his birthday on 17 March.
- Mary Parker: Fred solicited prayers for his wonderful wife Mary who is dealing with some serious medical issues at this time.
- Fentanyl Crisis: Peter O'Neil noted that the crisis has hit home, with the reported death of a student at Paul VI Catholic High School from fentanyl poisoning.
- Food for the Poor: John Murphy reported that Food for the Poor, a charitable organization to which the Division contributes, has opened up a Supermarket for the needy in Merrifield.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary