

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
8 January 2023

The meeting came to order at 1:02 PM, chaired by President Kevin O'Brien. 18 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 (P)
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 the Fall/Winter 2022 newsletters of the Friends of Chimbote and the Toward Educating America's Children (TEACH) organization. It also received thank you letters and notes from Fr. Barkett, Fr. Peffley, Bethany House, and the House of Mercy.

Committee Reports:

- Finance (Fred Parker)
 - The 2023 Division Budget is in the draft stage. All members were invited to review the draft and offer comments.
 - All charitable donations included in the 2022 Division budget were funded.

- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)

- Mike Torrey noted that the Freedom For All Ireland fund awarded financial grants to 15 recipients last year. The recipients included justice campaigners, and heritage and patriot groups.
- The British Prime Minister is moving forward with an Amnesty Bill that would eliminate justice victims' rights to seek financial compensation for past offenses.
- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
 - With the passing of Pope Benedict XVI, we have lost the “greatest theologian of the 20th Century.”
 - There are 254 Bishops in the United States. These Bishops, meeting in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), have elected new leadership, including our own Bishop Burbidge as Chairman of the Right to Life Committee.
 - Fr. Mike Schmitz is now hosting a daily podcast entitled “The Catechism in a Year.”
 - The Diocesan Men’s Conference will be held on 4 March at St. John’s in Herndon. Peter Garry is organizing a car pool for interested parishoners.
 - In March, a General Synod of the Catholic Church will be held in which representatives of the national churches will meet with the Pope to discuss the feedback received from the faithful during the past year’s “listening sessions.”
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - On 3 January, the Food and Drug Administration authorized the over-the-counter sale of abortion-inducing drugs. Members are urged to contact CVS (800-746-7287; www.cvs.com) and Walgreens (1-800-925-4733; wcrexecresponse@walgreens.com) to urge them not to do so with the simple message that “Dispensing Death is Bad Business.”
 - Following the overturning of Roe v. Wade, a number of individual states have banned some or most abortions. However, legal challenges by pro-abortion forces are blocking implementation of these bans in many states.
 - Frank Pavone, leader of the anti-abortion Priests for Life, has been laicized by the Vatican over a dispute with his Bishop. This unfortunate event may have been triggered by concern that his pro-life ministry was too political.
 - The United States remains deeply divided over the issue of abortion. A National Right to Life poll conducted in September found that 47% of respondents opposed abortion, while 44% supported it.
 - The annual March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. on 20 January. Nativity Parish will have buses going to the rally.
 - On 1 February, the pro-life Virginia Defending Life Day rally will take place in Richmond.

Membership: Our membership has declined by 3 – one transferred, one resigned, and one deceased. Total membership now stands at 51 – 42 Regular Members, 5 Clergy, and 4 Active-duty Military – of whom 24 have obtained a Major Degree.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$17,114.68, of which \$1,175.00 is earmarked for the Associates. 16 checks totaling \$5,410.00 were written for charitable donations in December, making a total of \$7,055.00 in donations for calendar year 2022.

Unfinished Business:

- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** President O'Brien stated that he would be convening a meeting of the planning committee this week. Several very important issues are pending including securing a caterer, providing a DJ, soliciting sponsors, and determining the ticket price.
- ***State Meeting:*** Our Division is hosting the next State AOH Quarterly meeting on 28 January. Following the meeting, there may be a Major Degree ceremony. The Ladies AOH (LAOH) also may meet that day. President O'Brien has reserved Farrell Hall from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the meeting, and St. Joseph's Hall from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM for the possible LAOH meeting.
- ***Shamrock Degree:*** Ed Lacey 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:*** Consideration is being given to holding our installation at the State meeting on the 28th.

New Business:

- ***State AOH St. Patrick's Day Coloring Contest:*** The State AOH is sponsoring a coloring contest for young catholic grammar school students. Our Division has been asked to reach out to 7 area schools. President O'Brien already has done so, and Members were asked to volunteer as Points of Contact for the various schools.
- ***Funeral Ceremonials:*** It was agreed that appropriate ceremonials would be provided by the Division at the funerals of not only Members and Associates, but also of their immediate family members (spouses and children). The exact nature of the ceremonials will be contingent upon the wishes of the family and the guidance of the celebrant.
- ***Hypothermia Dinner:*** The Division will be providing dinner one evening for the guests hosted by St. Mary of Sorrows during the upcoming Hypothermia Week. The

Associates manage this effort. President O'Brien will check with them to see if they require any additional assistance.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone noted that although the role of the Irish in the American Civil War is well known, often overlooked is the important part played by Irish immigrants and descendants in the American Revolutionary War. Some one-quarter to one-third of Continental Army troops were Irish born or descendants, including 1,500 officers. There were some 22 Irish Generals and more than a dozen Sea Captains. Among the most prominent were John Barry of County Wexford (Father of the American Navy), Henry Knox (a Major General and first U.S. Secretary of War), and Jeremiah O'Brien (successful Privateer who has had five U.S. Navy ships named after him).

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- Coat Collection: On behalf of the Knights of Columbus prison fellowship, Peter Garry is collecting donations of coats and jackets for paroled prisoners and family members.
- Shoe Drive: On behalf of the Angelus Academy Catholic Grammar School, Ed Lacey is collecting donations of shoes, boots, and slippers for the poor in developing countries.
- Book Recommendation: President O'Brien heartily recommended Mark Roddy's novel *Raven* to the membership, saying it is a "great read."
- Civil War Collage: John Murphy described the civil war collage mounted on the wall of the Hall, and pointed out the AOH Membership pin found on the Fredericksburg battlefield among a host of Union army buttons.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary