

**Father William Corby Division**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
7 January 2024

The meeting came to order at 1:02 PM, chaired by President Mark Roddy. 19 Members attended the meeting.

**Officer Roll Call:**

President	Mark Roddy (P)
Vice President	Peter O’Neill (P)
Recording Secretary	Ed Lacey (P)
Financial Secretary	Fred Parker (P)
Treasurer	Phil Torrey (E)
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)
Chairman, Political Education Committee	Kevin O’Brien (P)
Chairman, Project St. Patrick	Mark Roddy (P)
Chairman, Immigration Affairs	Ed Lacey (P)

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** The reading of the minutes from the November Division meeting was waived.

**Correspondence:** Newsletters and solicitations for donations were received from Bethany House, House of Mercy, and TEACH. A thank you email also was received from Fr. Peffley for our Christmas present.

**Membership:** Fred Parker reported that membership stands at 46 – 38 regular members, 3 active duty military, and 5 clergy.

**Committee Reports:**

- Finance Committee (Fred Parker)
  - Dues payments are pending from a number of regular members. Dues for CY 2024 are \$43.00.

- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)
  - The AOH is continuing to support efforts to secure financial compensation from British authorities for Catholic families in Northern Ireland who suffered losses during “The Troubles” in the 90s.
  - Division members should go to the National AOH website to see how they can assist in this effort (i.e, by lobbying the U.S. Congress, etc.).
  
- Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
  - The “Bible in a Year” and “Catechism in a Year” programs are once again available on-line. Peter also recommended the “Holiness for the Working Day” podcast.
  - The Diocesan Men’s Conference is coming up. Peter Garry reported that it will be held the first Saturday in March at St. Joseph’s Church in Herndon. Those who sign up before 1 February will save \$15.00. There will be a bus from St. Mary of Sorrows.
  - It is generally acknowledged that the recent Vatican announcement on the blessing of same-sex unions is confusing.
  
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
  - Some 30,000 babies have been saved since the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* decision.
  - Fourteen states have enacted pro-life legislation. Many of these face court challenges from proponents of the taking of life in the womb. The Supreme Court will be taking up a Texas case this term related to the practice of chemical abortions.
  - Voter approval of an Ohio state constitutional amendment enshrining a right to abortion was heavily influenced by concerns over victims of rape and incest. Of voters who were undecided until the last moment, 95% voted in favor of the amendment. Of note, pro-abortion forces spent over \$11 million in their campaign to secure the amendment.
  - Fred recommended three organizations’ websites as good sources of information on pro-life issues: National Right to Life, Priests for Life, and the Susan B. Anthony List.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Fred Parker delivered the Treasurer’s report, noting that our current bank balance stands at \$19,111.84 (including \$4,372.00 earmarked for the Associates’ use). In CY 2023 the Division made \$8,695.00 in charitable donations.

**Unfinished Business:**

- *None:* The Division began the new year with no unfinished business.

## **New Business:**

- ***New Meeting Format:*** Henceforth we will focus more on Irish history and culture, and limit individual Committee reports to no more than five minutes.
- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** The Dinner Dance will be held on 16 March. The Hall has been reserved, and we have locked in Artistry Catering again.
- ***New Award:*** President Roddy wants to establish a new Division Award – a “Lifetime Achievement Award.” Details will be forthcoming.
- ***Recruiting:*** President Roddy also wants us to refocus on recruiting this year. Initially, he is considering ways to engage the nearby George Mason University community.
- ***St. Valentine's Day Lunch:*** The Division will hold a no-host lunch gathering at the Auld Shebeen on 13 February (the day before Ash Wednesday).
- ***St. Patrick Coloring Contest:*** Kevin O'Brien announced that the State AOH is again sponsoring a coloring contest for Catholic Elementary Schools (Grades 1-4). Kevin, Peter O'Neill, and Ed Lacey will be working on this for the seven schools in our Division's area.
- ***August Picnic:*** The Division will hold a picnic in August. (This had been an annual event, but ceased during the Covid-19 pandemic.)
- ***Swearing-In Ceremony:*** We plan to convene a swearing-in ceremony for officers at our next Division meeting in February.
- ***Gaelic Phrase of the Month:*** Beginning in February, Patrick McCauley will introduce Division members to a different phrase in Gaelic each month, thereby increasing our familiarity with the Irish language.

## **Historian's Report:**

Jim Noone spoke about the great Irish poet William Butler Yeats (1865-1939). Yeats was co-founder of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, and himself authored nine plays. In 1906, he became director of the Theatre. His poetry is renowned worldwide, and he was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. He also served two terms in the Senate of the Irish Free State. Amongst his most famous poems are “Easter 1916” and “The Song of the Wandering Aengus.” Yeats wrote the first of these five months after the Easter Rising. Jim recited a portion of “Easter 1916” for the Division members, and played a recording of “The Song of the Wandering Aengus” by Tommy Makem of Clancy Brothers fame.

## **Good & Welfare of the Order:**

- **Great Courses:** John Murphy said that an excellent course on Irish history and culture is available in the Great Courses program.

- Sashes: President Roddy said Kathleen Pablo (an accomplished seamstress) has volunteered to make AOH sashes for Division members at cost.
- Shirts: The Division will be putting together an order for AOH shirts. John Murphy will be the POC for this endeavor.
- Division Web Site: President Roddy announced that Tim Hartle will be taking over as webmaster for our web site.
- Shamrock Degree: Ed Lacey noted that Vice President O'Neill had organized a very nice degree ceremony late last year in which nine Division members received the Shamrock Degree.
- Parish Greeters: President Roddy again solicited Division members to serve as Parish welcome greeters following Sunday Masses at St. Mary of Sorrows. He asked Division greeters to wear their AOH name tags and opined this could also be an aid in recruiting new Division members.

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

The meeting concluded at 1:56 PM.

**NOTE:** Immediately following the meeting, Division members joined the Associates in the adjoining hall and participated in an Irish sing-along and social. Sung with gusto were the Irish classics "Molly Malone" and "I'll Tell My Ma."

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary