**Father William Corby Division**

 Monthly Meeting Minutes

 6 March 2022

The meeting came to order at 1:02 PM, chaired by Vice President John Murphy. 14 Members were present.

**Officer Roll Call:**

President Kevin O’Brien (E)

Vice President John Murphy (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 Mick Torrey (E)

Sentinel Peter O’Neill (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 a letter from the Sisters of Our Lady of La Salette thanking us for our 2021 donation.

**Committee Reports:**

* Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
* We are reminded that Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and alms giving.
* We also should be praying for peace in Ukraine and an end to the Russian invasion, and offering whatever we can in humanitarian assistance.
* Of note, there is a religious dimension to the Russian invasion. There are 5 million members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which is very influential in the country. But Kyiv is the historical center of the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian President Putin is a close confident of the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, and there is reason to believe that they are anxious to see the return of the seat of their church to Russia.
* Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
* The United States Senate voted down the so-called Women’s Health Act that would have codified an unlimited right to abortion and invalidated all pro-life legislation by the individual states.
* The Florida legislature has adopted a 15 week abortion ban. It has now been forwarded to the Governor for his signature.
* Judge Jackson, President Biden’s nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, unfortunately has a history of working in support of the abortion lobby. Students for Life Action are endeavoring to mobilize public opposition to her appointment.
* Freedom For All Ireland (John Murphy)
* We will put up a few posters about Irish history at the forthcoming St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance.
* Finance (Fred Parker)
* There was nothing new to report.

**Membership:** Our current membership stands at 54, including 5 Clergy, and 4 Active-duty Military.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at $14,741.97. Payment of a few bills is pending, including the balance owed Sullivan’s Catering for the upcoming St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance (about $1,000.00.) Phil also noted that he has closed the second bank account we had established for the possible Trivia Night fund raiser.

**Unfinished Business:**

* ***St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance:*** Vice President Murphy announced that the Dinner Dance planning committee will meet immediately following the Division meeting today. All Members are invited to attend.
* ***Alexandria St.*** ***Patrick’s Day Parade:*** Pat McGinty and Mike Torrey reported that the parade has been canceled this year.
* ***Installation of Officers:*** We will seek to hold the formal installation of officers at our April Division meeting. Mike Torrey will reach out to the State President to see if he would be interested in presiding over the ceremony.
* ***State Directory of Officers:*** Fred Parker and Mike Torrey have forwarded an updated list of Division Officers for the State Directory.
* ***Shamrock Degree:*** Scheduling a Shamrock Degree induction ceremony for the Division is still pending.

**New Business:**

* ***Gaelic Mass:*** Mike Torrey noted that there will be a Gaelic Mass at St. Thomas More Cathedral at 7:30 PM on 14 March.
* ***Golf Tournament:*** Mike Torrey reported that the General Meagher Division is holding a Golf Tournament in Fredericksburg in May. He will be following up to pick up any information we may be able to use in sponsoring a golf tournament fundraiser of our own.
* ***Irish Culture Center of Virginia:*** Mike Torrey passed out some brochures concerning the Irish Culture Center incorporated in Virginia in 2019. The Center seeks to foster understanding of Irish heritage, culture, and traditions. As such, it is worthy of Members consideration for charitable donations.
* ***Meetings at the Auld Shebeen:*** Members discussed the possibility of holding meetings or other events at the Auld Shebeen as a means of attracting younger members to the Division.

**Historian’s Report:**

Jim Noone reminded everyone that March is “Irish Heritage Month,” first proclaimed by the United States Congress in 1991. This year’s Presidential Proclamation, issued by the White House on 28 February, noted that nearly one in ten U.S. citizens today is a descendent of Irish immigrants.

Jim also noted that in 1961, on 12 March – the date of this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* for the first time. The audience that night numbered 40 million. Thereafter, they signed a record contract with Columbia Records and went on to produce two dozen albums and become the most popular musical group in Ireland. The first song they performed on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1961 was “Brennan On The Moor.” Jim handed out the lyrics to the song and led the Division in singing it with gusto!

**Good & Welfare of the Order:**

* New Division: Mike Torrey mentioned that the State organization is considering establishing a new Division at Precious Blood Parish in Culpepper.
* Honor Flight: Johnny Restivo reported that the VFW will be holding an Honor Flight in Fairfax on 23 April.
* Celtic History: Fred Parker said he has a *Great Courses* course on the Celts that might be useful in our recruitment efforts.

**Prayer Intentions:** Prayers were offered.

The meeting concluded at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary