

**Father William Corby Division**  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
5 March 2023

The meeting came to order at 1:07 PM, chaired by President Kevin O'Brien. 17 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 (E)
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 a thank you letter for our 2022 donation from the Sisters of Our Lady of LaSalette, and another from Angelus Academy for our members' contributions to their shoe drive fund raiser.

**Committee Reports:**

- Charities & Missions (Joe Boyle)
  - Members were invited to recommend new charities for our consideration.
  - Anyone wishing to do so, must designate a sponsor and provide a justification.
  
- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)
  - The Division has increased its donation in 2023 to the AOH Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) fund to \$1,000.00.

- These funds are used to support organizations in Ireland seeking compensation from the British government for Irish victims of British atrocities during the so-called “Troubles” in Northern Ireland.
  
- Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
  - Lent is underway, and there are plenty of opportunities throughout the Diocese to participate in Lenten activities such as Stations of the Cross, prayer services, and Perpetual Adoration. The *Catechism In a Year* podcast is also recommended.
  - The Diocesan Men’s Conference was held on 4 March and was well attended. The Women’s Conference will be held on 11 March.
  - On a slightly positive note, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is considering a new rule on conscience rights that although insufficient, if adopted would be an improvement over the current HHS rule.
  - But on the negative side, Democrats in the U.S. Senate are looking for ways to secure adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment (whose expiration date for ratification expired decades ago). And they are looking to expand its definition so as to promote the transgender and abortion agenda.
  - Equally disturbing, the Vermont Legislature is considering adoption of a statute that would require Priests to break the seal of confession with respect to certain criminal activities.
  
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
  - Fred circulated a written report which is appended to these Minutes.
  - Highlights included the following: (1) In a 1 March Congressional Hearing with the Attorney General, it was revealed that there have been over 100 attacks on pro-life pregnancy centers and Catholic churches. The Justice Department has prosecuted only two of those involved in these attacks, while at the same time prosecuting 34 pro-life demonstrators. (2) Senator Risch has introduced a bill to create the Pregnancy Center Security Act that would provide grant money for pro-life pregnancy centers to purchase security cameras. (3) Bishop Barron has labeled the Minnesota Abortion Law that would legalize abortion up to the moment of birth as the “worst kind of barbarism.” (4) The National Right to Life organization has released the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of its *State of Abortion in the United States* report.

**Membership:** Our membership remains unchanged.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$16,601.06. Expenses during the past month have been largely associated with preparations for the forthcoming St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance -- \$1,008.75 down payment for catering, \$114.96 for the printing of tickets, \$51.76 for beverages, \$267.50 down payment for the Disc Jockey.

Other prominent expenses related to the Division's hosting of the State AOH Board Quarterly meeting -- \$508.00.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** President O'Brien stated that roughly 75 tickets have been sold so far, and that we would now begin selling Pot 'o Gold tickets as well. Additional volunteers are needed to sell tickets after Masses at St. Mary's. Also, volunteers are needed to help staff the bar at the event. Unfortunately, we are having a hard time securing sponsors, and Nativity Parish is holding its St. Patrick's Day Dance on the same night. Mike Torrey suggested that going forward we should examine how we could sell tickets to the Dinner Dance on-line.
- ***Coloring Contest:*** Peter O'Neill reported on the successful St. Patrick Coloring Contest for grades KG through 4. Some 5,000 packages were passed out to students in Catholic elementary schools in Virginia. There were 1,900 submissions from 16 schools, including six schools sponsored by our Division. In addition to the picture of St. Patrick that students colored with crayons, there was information and a study sheet for classroom use on the history of St. Patrick in Ireland.
- ***Shamrock Degree:*** Ed Lacey again noted that a Shamrock Degree induction ceremony for the Division is still pending.
- ***Installation of Officers:*** Our Installation ceremony likewise is still pending.

### **New Business:**

- ***Division Website:*** Mike Torrey recommended we take steps to secure control of the Division website. At present, we do not have a Web Master and must rely on assistance from a member of the Kof C at St. Mary's.
- ***St. Mary's Pastoral Council:*** Mark Roddy said that the St. Mary's Pastoral Council has decided to create prayer cards to be placed in all of the pews at the church. He made a motion that the Division agree to pay up to \$600.00 to pay for the printing of the prayer cards. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Historian's Report:**

Jim Noone delivered a report on Dublin, Capital city of the Republic of Ireland. A Christian settlement and nearby Viking settlement merged to form what is now Dublin. In 1922, it became the Capital of the Irish Free State, and in 1937 of the Republic. Today, Dublin city has a population of 588,000 and Dublin county some 1.4 million. In all, greater Dublin holds some

40% of the population of the entire Republic of Ireland. Notable features of the city include the Trinity College Old Library holding the *Book of Kells* illuminated manuscript, the Ha'penny iron foot bridge over the River Liffey, the General Post Office (rebuilt after its destruction during the 1916 Easter Rising), St. Stephen's Green, and the Guinness Brewery at St. James Gate that was constructed in 1759.

Dublin's unofficial anthem is the well-known song *Molly Malone*, and Jim led the Division in singing the song.

**Good & Welfare of the Order:**

- Mary Parker: President O'Brien solicited prayers for Mary Parker who is dealing with some serious medical issues.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary