

**Father William Corby Division**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**2 October 2022**

The meeting came to order at 1:06 PM, chaired by Financial Secretary Fred Parker. 14 Members attended the meeting.

**Officer Roll Call:**

President	Kevin O'Brien (E)
Vice President	John Murphy (E)
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 (E)
Chairman, Charities & Missions	Joe Boyle (E)
Chairman, Catholic Action	Peter O'Neill (P)
Chairman, Freedom for All Ireland	John Murphy (E)
Chairman, Pro-Life	Fred Burgess (P)

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Recording Secretary Ed Lacey read the minutes of the meeting of 11 September. The minutes were approved.

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to report.

**Committee Reports:**

- Finance (Fred Parker)
  - A meeting of the Joint Finance Committee is pending.
  
- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
  - Early voting in the U.S. Mid-term elections is underway. The website of the Virginia Catholic Conference has the positions of the various candidates on issues related to Catholic faith and morals.
  - The Biden Administration is pushing proposals on “gender reassignment” that are anathema to Catholic hospitals. This is particularly important when you realize that one in seven hospital patients in this country are treated by Catholic hospitals!

Cardinals Cupich and Dolan have published a letter expressing opposition to the Administration's proposals.

- The Synodal Path continues to be fraught with peril. Belgian Flemish Bishops have authorized a "formal blessing" of same sex unions, and the German church is pressing ahead on women clergy and same sex marriage.
  - Violence against Catholic churches and institutions in the United States continues. The Catholic League has documented over 150 incidents of such attacks since May 2020.
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
    - The Biden Administration continues to press its pro-abortion agenda, most recently requiring that Veterans Administration hospitals must perform abortions regardless of any state laws to the contrary.
    - The Justice Department went after Mark Houck, a pro-life activist in Pennsylvania, after a minor incident at an abortion facility was dismissed by State courts. Some number of FBI agents – perhaps as many as 20 – raided Houck's house with guns drawn to arrest him in front of his wife and 7 children. This occurred after Houck's attorney had already contacted the Bureau with Houck's offer to turn himself in voluntarily.
    - This is merely the latest example of the Federal Government's efforts to intimidate pro-life activists. It is notable that no action has been taken at the Federal level against violent pro-abortion activists.
    - On the good news front, Russell County in southwest Virginia has boldly declared itself a pro-life sanctuary! Hopefully other counties and municipalities will follow suit.
    - And on the local level, there was a Project Gabriel reception at St. Mary of Sorrows church for 20 young pregnant women in need of assistance. The Associates raised \$700.00 for the event. Mike Torrey, who worked the reception along with his wife, said another such event may be scheduled for 18 December.

**Membership:** Fred Parker reported that our membership is unchanged – 45 Regular Members, 5 Clergy, and 4 Active-duty Military.

**Treasurer's Report:** Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$19,568.40. He also noted that the Division has donated \$1,145.00 to St. Bonaventure's Indian Mission and School - \$875.00 of which was collected by the Associates.

**Unfinished Business:**

- ***Division Election:*** As per an email message from President Kevin O'Brien, election of Division Officers will be held at our November meeting. Anyone interested in

serving as an Officer or Committee Chair should contact Mike Torrey, who will compile a list of candidates.

- ***Installation of Officers:*** Tentatively, we will schedule a formal installation of Officers in January.
- ***Shamrock Degree:*** A Shamrock Degree induction ceremony for the Division is still pending. There are at least several Members who have not been given the opportunity of obtaining that degree. (Indeed, more than 20% of those attending the meeting had not yet received the Shamrock Degree.) It was agreed that the ceremony could be scheduled for a weekday night, rather than on a weekend.

### **New Business:**

- ***State Meeting:*** Mike Torrey noted that there would be a State AOH meeting on 15 October.
- ***Veterans Day:*** Mike Torrey asked if the Division would be doing anything to commemorate Veterans Day this year? Nothing is currently scheduled. Some discussion followed, but nothing was decided, and it was acknowledged that it may already be too late to schedule something this year.
- ***St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance:*** Fred Parker said we need to start planning for next year's Dinner Dance which is scheduled for 18 March. Farrell Hall has been reserved for the event. Most importantly, Fred said we need near-term agreement on a Caterer for the event. After some discussion, it was agreed without objection that we should use the same Caterer we used this year, pending review of Mark Roddy's after-action report.
- ***Golf Tournament:*** Mike Torrey said that he would be planning for a Division Golf Tournament in May, but that he would be needing significant assistance with this from Division members.

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

Jim Noone reported that today was the birthday of our Division name-sake, Fr. William Corby. Fr. Corby was born in Detroit, Michigan on 2 October 1833. He is most famously remembered as the "Fighting Chaplain" of the Union's Irish Brigade in the War Between the States. Fr. Corby joined the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (one of the five regiments of which the Irish Brigade was composed) in 1861, at the age of 28. The Brigade fought in almost every major battle of the war and suffered horrendous casualties – 60% at Antietam alone. By the time of the pivotal battle of

Gettysburg, the 3,000 strong brigade numbered only 600 men! It was at that battle that Fr. Corby stood upon a boulder and gave general absolution to the troops going into combat. After the war, Fr. Corby became President of the University of Notre Dame at the age of 33. He passed away three decades later at the age of 64.

**Good & Welfare of the Order:**

- There was nothing for the Good & Welfare of the Order.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary