

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
1 October 2023

The meeting came to order at 1:03 PM, chaired by Vice President Peter O’Neill. 13 Members attended the meeting.

Officer Roll Call:

President	Kevin O’Brien (E)
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 (E)
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 PE)

Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion to waive the reading of the minutes was approved.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to report.

Membership: John LaRosa, a new candidate for membership, was approved and duly inducted into the Division, and heartily welcomed by the brothers present.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee (Fred Parker)
 - There will be a meeting of the Joint Division-Associates Finance Committee within the next few weeks to discuss the budget for the coming year.
 - Division dues in 2024 will increase from \$35.00 per Member to \$43.00. Of that amount, \$20.00 will go to National (\$16.00 if paid on time), \$5.00 to the State AOH (up from \$2.00), and \$2.00 for insurance.

- Freedom for All Ireland (John Murphy)
 - The AOH has been supporting Catholic families in Northern Ireland in their quest for compensation from the British Government for losses suffered during “The Troubles” in the 90s. The British Prime Minister has opposed any such compensation.
 - John provided a historical overview of the partition and subsequent Catholic-Protestant difficulties in the North.
 - Unification with the Republic of Ireland is unlikely any time soon, but our goal should at least be equality for Catholics in the North.

- Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
 - Peter’s written report is attached.
 - In particular, Peter noted the important Synod being held this month in Rome; that October is the Month of the Holy Rosary; the forthcoming Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Seton Shrine and the Men’s Retreat in early November; and recommended the movies *Sound of Freedom* and *What Is Love?* (that will be released in mid October).

- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - Proponents of the taking of life in the womb continue their efforts unabated. The Mexican Supreme Court has declared criminal penalties for abortion to be unconstitutional, the Biden Administration sought to include abortion funding in the PEPFAR Global AIDS Relief package, and Planned Parenthood has challenged in court a North Carolina law prohibiting abortions after 12 weeks.
 - Fred reminded us that abortion is the taking of a human life, and noted that most abortions are in fact carried out within the first 15 weeks.
 - He also noted that abortion will be an important issue in the upcoming elections in Virginia.

Treasurer’s Report: Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$23,058.21. Our most recent expense was \$233.00 for our Post Office box. Phil also noted that the Associates had collected \$1,140.00 in donations for the St. Bonaventure Indian School and Mission.

Unfinished Business:

- ***Shamrock Degree:*** A motion was approved without objection to hold a Shamrock Degree Induction Ceremony immediately following our next Division meeting in November. The motion further held that we forgo all Committee reports at the November meeting to provide adequate time for the ceremony. A number of Division Members have never received the Shamrock Degree. All Division Members will be welcome to attend the ceremony.

New Business:

- ***Associates Tea:*** The Associates Fall Tea Fundraiser will be held on 20 October. John Murphy and Fred Parker have volunteered to serve as Butlers for the event, but several more men are needed to assist in this capacity.
- ***Charities & Missions:*** Anyone who wishes to propose additional charities for the Finance Committee's consideration should get their proposals to Joe Boyle ASAP.
- ***Election of Officers:*** Our annual election of Division Officers will take place in November. Anyone who is interested in serving as an Officer should make their wishes known to President O'Brien in the very near term.
- ***Name Badges & Sashes:*** Fred Parker will be putting together an order for anyone desiring a new Name Badge or AOH sash. Badges cost \$10.50 - \$15.00 for magnetic badges. Sashes are \$75.00 for a 5 foot sash, \$80.00 for a 6 foot sash, and \$85.00 for a 7 foot sash.
- ***International Night:*** The Associates will be participating in the St. Mary of Sorrows International Night, representing Ireland.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone spoke about the great Irish tenor, John McCormack, whose voice was certainly without peer. McCormack began his singing career in the opera, but went on to perform Irish ballads and folk songs earning the princely sum of \$1 million a year. He became a United States citizen in 1917, and donated funds and performed concerts in support of U.S. forces in both the First and Second World Wars. McCormack was a devout Catholic who tried to visit a church before every performance. He was awarded three Papal Knighthoods, and in 1928 was named a Papal Count by Pope Pius XI. He passed away 78 years ago on September 16, 1945.

Jim played a magnificent recording of McCormack singing the *Rose of Tralee*.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- Honor Flight: Pat McGinty said the VFW would be holding another Honor Flight next weekend.

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