

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
11 September 2022

The meeting came to order at 1:07 PM, chaired by President Kevin O'Brien. 14 Members attended the meeting.

Officer Roll Call:

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| President | Kevin O'Brien (P) |
| 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 (E) |
| Historian | Jim Noone (P) |
| Parliamentarian | John Murphy (P) |
| Chairman, Charities & Missions | Joe Boyle (P) |
| Chairman, Catholic Action | Peter O'Neill (E) |
| 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 newsletters and brochures from Bethany House and the Toward Educating America's Children (TEACH) organization. It also received a very nice note from Dick and Susan Lee, Co-Chairs of the St. Mary of Sorrows Labor Day Picnic Committee, expressing deep appreciation for the support provided to the Picnic by Division Members.

Committee Reports:

- Finance (Fred Parker)
 - The Associates have requested that another meeting of the Joint Finance Committee be held before December.
 - The Associates have raised an issue concerning an annual Division donation to the FOCUS group. Additional information is needed from the Associates.

- A question has arisen as to dues payments by new Members joining the Division after the first month of the year. A motion to prorate the annual dues for new Members was unanimously approved.

- Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
 - Ed Lacey summarized a written report submitted by Committee Chairman Peter O’Neill.
 - Key points included the following: (a) Remember in prayers the deceased victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack and their families; the persecuted Christians in Nicaragua, Nigeria, China, and the Middle East; and British Queen Elizabeth II. (b) Anti-Catholic rhetoric and violence is on the rise throughout the United States. (c) The Church in Germany continues on its very disturbing path, perhaps “the worst assault since Luther.” (d) There are a lot of good activities underway in our Diocese, including conferences, religious observances, and novenas. Also, we have a new class of 12 seminarians.

- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - As has been noted previously, the pro-life struggle is moving to the states.
 - A good example of this was the attempt to amend the state constitution of Kansas to say that there is no specific “right” to an abortion and no requirement for public funding of abortions. The attempt failed. Opponents raised \$6.5 million to lobby against the proposed amendment. 71% of that sum came from out-of-state donors, including \$850,000.00 from the Planned Parenthood Action Committee. An additional \$490,000.00 came from Planned Parenthood of the Great Plains. Supporters of the amendment raised \$4.66 million – only 1% of which came from out-of-state.
 - More recently, pro-life students at George Mason University were harassed by some 50 demonstrators, one of whom tried to trash their pro-life brochures. And Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, asserted during a speech at the University of California that abortion restrictions are an “assault on women” and are “sinful.”
 - Planned Parenthood released its annual report last week. According to the report, they performed 383,460 abortions in the past year, from which they realized \$1.7 billion. Additionally, they received \$633 million in taxpayer funding.

- Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) (John Murphy)
 - The fallout from Brexit continues among the three factions in Ireland. However, the issue of a hard or soft border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland was resolved by the British Parliament with a soft border containing no customs or movement restrictions.
 - The British Government is considering an Amnesty Bill that would prevent the Irish victims of past atrocities carried out during The Troubles in Northern Ireland from

seeking compensation. The AOH is opposed to this bill, and U.S. Congressman William Keating has introduced a draft bill in the House opposing the British Amnesty Bill.

Membership: George Rosenkranz was approved without objection for membership in the Division and was duly sworn in.

- Fred Parker reported that our membership now stands at 54 – 45 Regular Members, 5 Clergy, and 4 Active-duty Military.
- 27 of our Members hold a Major Degree.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Torrey reported that our current bank balance stands at \$20,929.40. Of this sum, \$1,175.00 is earmarked specifically for activities of the Associates..

Unfinished Business:

- ***Election and Installation of Division Officers:*** The annual election of Division Officers will be tentatively scheduled for our next meeting in October. A formal Installation of Officers will be held sometime thereafter.
- ***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.
- ***Trivia Night Fundraiser:*** Mike Torrey mentioned that the materials for a trivia night fundraiser are still available for use should the Division desire to do so.
- ***National Convention:*** President Kevin O'Brien reported on the National AOH Convention held in July in Pittsburg. He noted that the three main issues addressed at the Convention were: (1) the British Amnesty Bill, (2) a proposal to amend the AOH Constitution to permit female membership (resoundingly defeated), and (3) continuing concern over our diminishing and aging membership.

New Business:

- ***Political Issues:*** President O'Brien expressed concern over U.S. President Biden's continued support of unrestricted abortions throughout the United States, in opposition to Catholic Church doctrine. Ed Lacey read a statement by AOH National Political Education Committee Chairman Neil Cosgrove published in the August-September issue of the *National Hibernian Digest*:

“Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. You will never have a politician’s attention as much as when they need your vote. We need to ask them what is their ‘answer’ for the issues of concern to us as Hibernians: the right to life from conception to natural death, U.S. support for freedom for all of Ireland, [and] an end to the inequitable legal immigration policy that blocks today’s generation of Irish from immigrating here as did our forebears.”

- ***St. Bonaventure Indian School:*** Fred Parker noted that the school and surrounding area is continuing to suffer from a very severe water shortage. The Associates are taking up a collection today to support the school in this time of need. Individual Members who would like contribute to this effort are urged to do so.
- ***Christmas Party:*** Fred Parker reported that the Associates have planning for the annual Division Christmas Party well in hand.
- ***Hibernian Rifles:*** Ed Lacey asked about the Hibernian Rifles Division referred to in Section 1 of Article XXIX of the AOH National Constitution. As none of the Members could provide any information about this entity, Ed volunteered to see what he could learn and share it with the Division at a future date, if appropriate. .

Historian’s Report:

Jim Noone reported that we had recently passed the 100th anniversary of the death of Michael Collins on 22 August 1922. Collins was the principal architect of the Anglo-Irish Treaty which established the Irish Free State, forerunner of the Irish Republic. When signing the pact, Collins prophetically commented that he had just signed his own death warrant. Although approved by the Irish Parliament by a vote of 64 to 57, opposition to certain provisions of the Treaty – specifically, partition of the country and the requirement of an oath to the British crown – resulted in a brief but bloody and tragic civil war. It was while traveling in County Cork during the war that Collins’ Free State convoy was ambushed by 25-30 rebels some 20 miles from where he was born. Collins and his party returned fire, and he was killed – shot in the back of the head – during the engagement. Collins was only 31 years old when he died. Some 500,000 people – one-fifth of the population of Ireland at the time – turned out for his funeral.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- **Church Ushers:** President O’Brien and Vice President Murphy noted that St. Mary of Sorrows is in need of addition Church Ushers for Sunday Mass. Members interested in serving as Ushers should contact Joe Osborne.

- Seven Sorrows of Mary: Fred Parker commended to the attention of Division Members a series of paintings by his Granddaughter of the Seven Sorrows of Mary now hanging in Farrell Hall.
- Prayer List: Ed Lacey made a copy of the Division Prayer List available for Members to update as needed.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary