

Father William Corby Division

Monthly Meeting Minutes 2 February 2025

The meeting came to order at 1:06 PM, chaired by President Mark Roddy. 14 Members attended the meeting.

Officer Roll Call:

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| President | Mark Roddy (P) |
| Vice President | Peter O'Neill (P) |
| Recording Secretary | Ed Lacey (P) |
| Financial Secretary | Fred Parker (P) |
| Treasurer | Phil Torrey (E) |
| Chaplain | Fr. Farrell (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 (P) |
| Chairman, Political Education Committee | Kevin O'Brien (E) |
| Chairman, Project St. Patrick | Mark Roddy (P) |
| Chairman, Immigration Affairs | Ed Lacey (P) |

Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the January Division meeting was approved.

Correspondence: Thank you cards and letters were received for our donations from the George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry and Fr. Vander Woude, Pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows.

Membership: Fred Parker reported that we have to provide the State AOH with detailed information on our active duty military members. Difficulties with respect to one of our members in this regard are being worked out.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee (Fred Parker)
 - The Finance Committee met to review the draft 2025 Division budget.

- Our planned charitable donations will be subject to modification depending upon the outcome of our fund raising activities this year.
- Freedom For All Ireland (John Murphy)
 - We were one of four Divisions in the State to donate \$1,000.00 to the FFAI Fund in 2024.
- Catholic Action (Peter O'Neill)
 - The Rosary-in-a-Year is now available on-line.
 - Bishop Baron is in the process of forming a new religious Order.
 - Some Church leaders in the U.S. have expressed opposition to President Trump's efforts to secure the border from illegal immigration.
 - This year is the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the drafting of the Nicene Creed!
- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - Fred provided a detailed written report (attached).
 - The annual March For Life took place on 24 January. This year's theme was "Why We March." Vice President Vance, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate Majority Leader (all Republicans) appeared in-person and addressed the rally preceding the march. President Trump appeared remotely.
 - Pro-life day in Virginia was held on 29 January. 400 pro-life activists came to Richmond to lobby in support of babies in the womb.
 - Virginia's March for Life will be held on 29 April in Richmond.
 - The Abortion Survivors Act which would mandate life-saving treatment for babies who survive an abortion attempt has been blocked in the U.S. Senate by Democrat Party members under the leadership of N.Y. Senator Chuck Schumer.
 - Democrat Party legislators in Virginia are fast-tracking two State Constitutional Amendments to promote abortions in the Commonwealth.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report this month.

Unfinished Business:

- ***St. Valentine's Day:*** The Division will hold a no-host lunch at the Auld Shebeen at 1:30 PM on Friday, 14 February.
- ***St. Patrick's Day Party (Hooley):*** The party is scheduled for Saturday, 15 March. Tickets will cost \$25.00, and there will be an additional one-time charge of \$10.00 for beer and wine. We will be serving Irish finger food, and have a live band followed by dance music with a digital DJ. Fund raising efforts will include sponsorships, a 50/50 raffle, and one or more raffles of "whiskey baskets." We will get an announcement in the Parish Flock Notes and Bulletin, and commence ticket sales on the last weekend of February.

New Business:

- **Funeral:** President Roddy reminded everyone that Dick Lee's funeral will take place on 4 February. Dick was a devoted member of the Division and will be missed by all.
- **Lads Lunch:** President Roddy said the next Lads Lunch at Auld Shebeen will be on or about 26 March.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Nominations are due by the end of this month.
- **State AOH Quarterly Meeting:** We have been asked to host the State Quarterly meeting on 17 May.
- **Lenten Fish Fry:** The KofC has requested our assistance at the Parish Lenten Fish Fry on 29 March, 4 April, and/or 11 April.
- **Trivia Night Fundraiser:** President Roddy said we are tentatively planning to hold a trivia night fundraiser on or about 20 September.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone provided a report on the infamous Molly Maguires of 1870s Northeast Pennsylvania. The group was named after an Irish widow who took a stand against the English landlords who stole Irish lands. Seeking to defend the rights of the Irish coal miners in Pennsylvania, the group organized strikes and soon turned to violence. Some 24 mine foremen and supervisors were assassinated. Eventually, 20 men – mostly Molly Maguires – were tried and sentenced to death for these crimes. Ten of them were executed on 21 June 1877, a date subsequently known as “Black Thursday” and “The Day of the Rope.” Most historians now agree that the trials were manifestly unfair and the executions an outrageous perversion of the criminal justice system. In 1970, a movie featuring well known actor Sean Connery was released, portraying the Molly Maguires in a more favorable light.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- The funeral for well-respected St. Mary of Sorrows Parishoner Ercole Barone will be held on 11 February.
- Noted AOH member JJ Kelly has passed away. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in April.

Prayer Intentions: Prayers were offered for deceased Division members and their families, and for vocations to the clergy.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary