

Father William Corby Division
Monthly Meeting Minutes
3 November 2024

The meeting came to order at 1:03 PM, chaired by President Mark Roddy. 13 Members attended the meeting.

Officer Roll Call:

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 (P)
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 (E)
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 (P)
Chairman, Project St. Patrick	Mark Roddy (P)
Chairman, Immigration Affairs	Ed Lacey (P)

New Chaplain: President Roddy welcomed Fr. Farrell as our new Division Chaplain.

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

Correspondence: A letter was received from Bethany House reminding us of the work they do on behalf of battered women.

Membership: Fred Parker reported that with the addition of Fr. Farrell, membership now stands at 46: 37 regular members, 6 clergy, and 3 active duty military.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee (Fred Parker)
 - The Associates have agreed to allocate \$2,000.00 (of the \$4,275.00 currently earmarked for them) towards the Division’s 2024 charitable contributions.

- Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) (John Murphy)
 - The AOH is urging members to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators to request their support in having the British Government reverse the British Legacy Act. As it now stands, the Act would safeguard British Government officials from the efforts of Irishmen seeking justified compensation for the wrongs committed by the British Government against Catholics in Northern Ireland during the period known as “The Troubles” from 1969 through 1998.

- Catholic Action (Peter O’Neill)
 - Peter reminded Division members of the Plenary Indulgence opportunities afforded in the week following All Souls Day.
 - The recently concluded Synod has issued its final report. Eight to ten Working Groups are continuing their work, however, and should wrap up early next year.

- Pro-Life (Fred Burgess)
 - Fred provided a comprehensive written report (attached). A few highlights are summarized herewith.
 - A study by the American Life League reports that 63-70 % of abortions in the United States are chemical abortions performed with drugs. It also notes that pro-abortion advocates are funneling these drugs into states that have abortion restrictions.
 - The upcoming national election is an important one for the abortion issue. St. Mary of Sorrows Pastor Fr. Vander Woude has written an excellent letter on this which was included in the weekly Bulletin and is also on the Parish web site.
 - Eleven states have pro-abortion amendments on the ballot this year.
 - The Priests for Life organization has made 13 “very informative” videos available on-line.

Treasurer’s Report: President Roddy reported that our current bank balance stands at approximately \$21,400.00.

Unfinished Business:

- *Trivia Night:* The Trivia Night fundraiser has been postponed. It may be rescheduled in the Spring.

New Business:

- *Hurricane Relief:* In addition to food and supplies, the Division and members collectively donated \$1,815.00 to the Hurricane Helene relief effort in North Carolina.
- *Christmas Party:* The Division Christmas Party will be held at Auld Shebeen on 15 December.
- *No December Meeting:* There will be no Division meeting in December.
- *St. Patrick’s Day Party (Hooley):* Fred Burgess is putting together a play list of dance music for the party. Suggestions are welcome.

Historian's Report:

Jim Noone reported on a recent public message from noted Irish author Jean Grainger. The message concerned preparations for the construction of a new Pediatric Hospital in Ireland. A poll recently conducted by *The Irish Times* found that the Irish overwhelmingly wish the hospital to be named after Dr. Kathleen Lynn. Dr. Lynn was a brilliant and compassionate medical doctor in the early 20th Century, who labored tirelessly to reverse the staggering infant mortality rate in Ireland at the time. She also was a staunch Irish Patriot, and served as Chief Medical Officer of the Irish Citizen Army during the Easter Rising of 1916. Dr. Lynn died in Dublin in 1955 at the age of 81, and was buried with full military honors in recognition of her contributions to the nation.

Good & Welfare of the Order:

- Irish Concert: President Roddy said there will be a performance of Irish music by the band *Whiskey Before Breakfast* at Sydenstricker School on 9 November.
- George Mason University Chapel: In response to a question from Pat McGinty, Fr. Farrell updated Division members on plans to expand the Chapel facilities. When finished, the size of the first floor will be doubled and there will be two dedicated Bible study rooms. Father noted that the GMU Campus Ministry currently has six Focus Missionaries, and 16 students preparing to join the Faith.

Chaplain's Blessing: Fr. Farrell blessed the members and urged us to pray for both our country and for Ireland. He stated that we are beginning to see a return of the Faith in Ireland, and that there are many signs of hope, particularly among young people.

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

The meeting concluded at 1:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lacey, Recording Secretary