

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Inc.



Volume 55 No. 2

April, May, June, 2020

President's Message

Sisters,

I send you blessings in this time of personal sacrifice. As we all struggle to find a new normal, I wish to thank our older members who have shared their stories of personal sacrifice from earlier times in our nation's history to humble and inspire me. I would also like to thank the Spirituality Committee- Kathy Norris, Cyrile Sincock, Mary Asaki and Laura Breidigam- for arranging Rosary Thursday. This was a blessed way of sharing our Catholic Faith.

Easter this year took me back to Ireland. I thought of ancestors during the time of Cromwell when we were forced to hold masses in the fields. Today, in a nation that takes pride in the principles of individualism and free enterprise, social-distancing guidelines have been met with some resistance, most notably among people who perceive themselves to be less at risk or who site the primacy of their personal freedoms. This sisterhood has risen to the finest traditions of our Order and the personal freedoms of being an American. You lead the way for your families and those around you.

Please continue to be safe and communicate with those closest to you. Please let me or the Board know if you need anything.

Yours in love and our motto,

-Stacie Guerin-



LAOH Website

Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms. There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene.

You can also find us on <http://www.facebook.com>

Calendar

April

Apr.23: Maryland LAOH Rosary, 7 PM, Telephone, Dial in, 1-978-990-5000, code 393109; keep phone 12 inches from mouth, wait for Mary Asaki to start *each* prayer

July

July 22—25: AOH-LAOH National Convention, Orlando, FL. Details forthcoming



September

Sept. 26: LAOH Maryland Retreat Day, *Awakening to Mary*, 1:15-3:45, Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, \$20, Flier

Cultural Corner

HIS IS HAPPINESS by Niall Williams

ORCHID & THE WASP by Caolinn Hughes

A RIVER IN THE TREES by Jacqueline O'Mahony

-Joanna Cox-



Gatherings

“Life happens when you are not looking”, so the saying goes. Each day we awake is a blessing. Nature talks to us as it always has. Daffodils, tulips and trees are bursting in color.

Does not the sunshine kiss the dew away? Listen and you can hear the winds song. Step out’ don’t let fear blind you, the gift of life is before you. When we are laden with sorrow and it seems, all is lost, look at God’s gifts. He promised to fight for you; “you need only be still”.

-Kathy Norris-

Sorrow...

In May you see God’s light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear,
Even in your hour of sorrow,
The gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember
when the shadows fall –
You do not walk alone.

May the blessings of light be upon you,
Light without and light within.
The blessed sunlight shine on you
and warm your heart
till it glows like a great peat fire.
And in all your comings and goings,
May you ever have a kindly greeting
From them you meet on the road.

Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal;
Love leaves a memory no
one can steal.

de Henry Scott Holland

Carroll County, Division 1

Easter Blessings to all!

On February 8th, our Sister Barb Bray had the honor, along with Kathy Norris, Lauren Breidigam, and Sharon Strobel to place a Wreath from the Maryland LAOH on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier down at Arlington National Cemetery. Kelly Parks and Mary Beth Connolly attended the Ceremony. It was beautiful and humbling. Some of our Sisters attended the St Brigid Mass on February 23rd at St. Ignatius Church. It was well attended by the many LAOH Divisions. The Mass was Beautiful, and the Fellowship was wonderful.



Then March came. Fortunately our Division was able to get its Bake Sale in before the Big Quarantine struck. St. Bartholomew’s Parishioners are always generous to our Division. We sold out of baked goods and sold a few more Cookbooks. We had planned to set up an information table at Westminster Celtic Cantor, but it was cancelled, as well as the Baltimore St. Patrick’s Day Parade. We missed celebrating our Irish Heritage with other organizations, but also agree that the safety and health of our members was more important. When this is all over, we will gather again to sing, dance and celebrate all things Irish.’



Not sure what the new normal will be, but we look forward to being together soon. Please keep all our Sisters in your prayers, especially Sister Cecelia. Continue to keep our Country, State and the World in your prayers as we all go through this Pandemic together. God Bless and Rejoice in the Risen Christ!

Respectfully,

-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary-

Howard County, Division 1

This quarter has been a study in “the best laid plans’ going awry with only one meeting and having to postpone installation of officers. Since we’re flying by the seat of our pants, all officers remaining in office were “blessed” and will be carrying on. We aren’t going to focus on what hasn’t happened – the St. Patrick’s Day parade, our fundraising effort with the St. John’s Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, Columbia, benefitting the Tanzanian Children’s Project, being together for Holy Week, celebrating Easter with family and friends.

What we have done has been powerful even if solitary: at least one member attended the LAOH Parade Fundraiser, members joining others in prayer, connecting with our own parishes via streaming, providing for the needs of others and sewing masks.

Health and economic uncertainties have been our crosses to bear during this time of medical upheaval. We have been blessed with our version of Simon of Cyrene helping us carry them: the ability to maintain contact with others and work by phone and electronically, bursts of humor and song, social distancing to flatten the curve, supporting small businesses,

and our Governor and County Executives being proactive in maintaining our safety.

While we don't know how much longer or what the future trajectory is, we pray for the health and safety of all of our LAOH sisters, their families and friends.

Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hands and the Blessed Mother intercede for us!

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Harford County, Division 2

In January we held our annual St Ita Mass. Donations were given to the Gabriel Network and Angels Supporting Your Troops. Father Ron Zoubek was our celebrant. Refreshments were served after Mass.

In February new division officers were installed by State President Stacie Guerin. We had refreshments and socialized. Sister Thelma Graziano was selected as Deputy Parade Marshall for the St Patrick's Day Parade. Thelma Graziano's family and division sisters were present to see her receive this Installation honor. Thelma was honored at a local restaurant by her family and friends.

Also, in March we saw with sadness that the Coronavirus become a pandemic and all St Patrick's activities were cancelled. We had planned to celebrate with an Irish food buffet.

Other plans pending are: participation with Catholic War Veterans Blue Mass, celebrating a May Crowning, and a trip to Sight and Sound to see "Esther" on Tuesday, June 30th for the 11 AM show. A luncheon is planned after the show at Shady Maple. Total cost is \$120.00.

We participated with Rosary reciting on Thursdays with our sister divisions. Sisters not having technology were contacted by phone for rosary recitation. We continue to keep in touch with our sisters through emails, letters, and phone calls. We pray for a return to our community lives. Special prayers are offered for the medical and service providers, and our pastors who do virtual services.

We will get through this Pandemic with God's grace.

Peace.

-Gleela Kolakowski, Reporter-



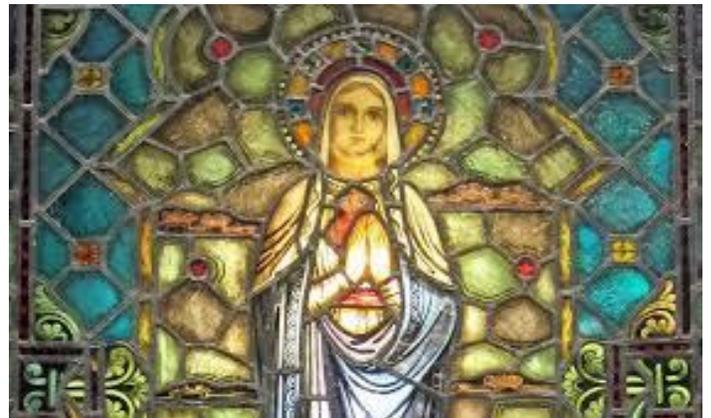
Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy Spring from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division in Baltimore City!

We continue to support the women of Marion House and Independence Place by collecting toiletries and kitchen supplies for them. We hope to soon affiliate with a west Baltimore parish in order to better fulfill our mission of Christian charity. For now, we are still meeting the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Kibby's Restaurant in west Baltimore. We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Baltimore County, Division 1



We pray everyone is safe and not too crazy after being confined for weeks. Let's all keep praying we'll be able to get together soon even with wearing our face masks and staying 6 feet apart.

Thank goodness we attended the St. Brigid mass and luncheon. Eileen Edwards did a fantastic job with the mass and lunch. We are all disappointed that the St Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled but happy that the LAOH fundraiser was a success.

I have to announce that none of our LAOH sisters or friends was the winner of our Irish Treasure Basket Raffle but I did get to deliver the basket to the winner who is a resident of Charlestown. It was delivered the day before St Patrick's Day when Charlestown was beginning to limit visitors. I have a feeling she hosted the best St Patrick's Day party on her hall.

The Sally Murphy Educational Assistance committee will not meet until it's safe for us to gather. I will keep you updated as to when that will be

We will keep on praying that the risen Lord Jesus Christ will end this pandemic soon and we will all stay safe until we meet again. Let's all pray "Jesus, I trust in you".

Maureen Shettle, President-

Harford County, Division 1

No report

- Kira Schoeffield, President-

Cecil County, Division 1

No Report

-Christine Hild, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

Happy Spring, Ladies!

While this Easter season may not have played out like year's past, we can take comfort in knowing that our loved ones are safe and healthy, even if we cannot see them. During these uncertain times, we can take comfort in our sisters.



Our division did not meet in March and are still unsure about our April meeting. We traditionally host our annual baby shower for the Mercy Hospital NICU in May. As of now, we cannot say for sure that we will be allowed into Villa Assumpta for our May meeting. We will be having our baby shower this year; it is just a matter of when, so keep thinking of those precious preemies! We will still be doing our annual fundraiser as well. Look for a mailing from Denny later in the spring regarding it.

The State Board is offering a Rosary Prayer Night on Thursday's at 7 PM. Please consider calling in at #978-990-5000. When prompted, enter access code 393109 and announce yourself. Starting on time is essential. Please let me know if you have any questions.

In the weeks to come, please reach out to your sisters, and do not hesitate to ask for help. We are all in this together! Stay safe and healthy!

-Ashley Knapik, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters,

We sincerely hope everyone is doing well and coping with confinement! I know we will all be glad to get back to normal. In the meantime we have plenty of time to come up with ideas to promote the [LAOH](#) when we're released from captivity.

Our Division will host another Open House for new members when we can return. We will be planning for our Baby Shower to be held in the fall.

We are continuing our Gift Card fund raiser and chances can be requested now from Pat [Zaccari](#). You can reach Pat through email at vangohatphoenix@aol.com or telephone 410-592-6338 if you would like to purchase a chance. Chances are \$2.00 a piece or three for \$5.00.

We are looking forward to being together again and enjoying each other's company. On a bright note the only thing we had to worry about for Easter was whether to eat in the kitchen or the dining room.

As always, please pray for our sisters in need. God Bless and stay well.

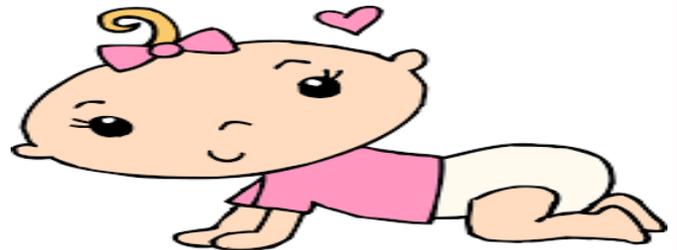
-Mary Helen Miller, Reporter-

Worcester County, Division 1

Prayers and greetings from your Ocean City sisters,

Our division meetings for March, April and May have been cancelled. If we can have a meeting in June we will gladly do that, but that decision is out of our hands.

The Baby Shower that was planned for our May meeting will



be rescheduled whenever we can have meetings again. The need for the items that the ladies bring to the shower does not go away. We are still working on the scholarships that we give each year to 2 seniors from Stephen Decatur High School. We will have to approach it in a different manner than we usually do but we are moving forward with this project.

Each of our board members has taken 4 of our division members and they have been contacting them every 7 to 10 days to make sure everyone is doing okay. The contact has been done by phone, by email or by a *thinking of you* card. The feedback has been very positive and all have enjoyed the contact. Hopefully by the time of the next Erin's Echo things will be much better and I can stop making masks. Stay safe and God Bless.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Anne Arundel County

During this last quarter, we were very busy - completing our history project, completing our year end reports, approving our budget, and carrying out the quarter's events. With the grace of God we made it through February. We participated in the March for Life in Washington DC and Maryland March for Life in Annapolis. Several ladies helped make the Mardi Gras Ball fundraising benefit for The Bernie House a resounding success and our division attended the St. Brigid's Day Mass. Our Division was honored to host the State Board meeting in Annapolis at the Charles Carroll House. We were able to march with our new division Chaplain, Fr. Patrick Woods on March 8 in the Annapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade.



You will hear it often, these are unprecedented times. Right away we organized a donation to assist in providing meals to local immigrant families in St. Mary's parish. It was so sad cancelling the Way of the Cross this year. However, we are cherishing our down time, sheltering in place with family members, and taking advantage of the additional time at home. We are calling and checking in on Division members, participating in prayer services and masses, holding meetings, and planning our Fall Fundraiser, our Tinsel Tea. We pray for all our sisters' safety, health, and wellbeing, especially our Kate Carr, mom of three, and a healthcare worker on the front line.

God Bless,

-Jane Bannon, President-

Let Us Pray



Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals as well as our deceased Sisters that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.



O Mary,

You always shine on our path
As a sign of salvation and of hope,
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
Who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
Keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,
Know what we need,
And we are sure you will provide
So that, as in Cana of Galilee,
We may return to joy and to feasting
After this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
To conform to the will of the Father
And to do as we are told by Jesus,
Who has taken upon himself our sufferings
And carried our sorrows
To lead us, through the cross,
To the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver
us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Translation done by Catholic News Service of the prayer Pope Francis recited by video March 11, 2020 for a special mass and act of prayer asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during the coronavirus pandemic.