

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

February 2021

LAOH President's Message

Since we are in January 2021, the month many would be attending the Right to Life Marches if not for the pandemic, I propose a question for all Hibernians to think about.

Are you Pro-Life or just an Anti-Abortionist?

It has always amazed me how outraged we become when a politician voted for women's health care that includes abortions or birth control. We scream for them to be expelled from the Order, removed from office, and such. But the silence at an execution in a state prison is deafening. We scream "fry him" because a murderer of a child was found. I hate to tell you, but that is against our religion and state sanctioned executions should be protested in the same manner, with the same loudness, and with the same money that some of us spend attending rallies, dinners, and marches in Washington DC on "Right to Life" lobby days. You don't have to take my word for it, ask your Chaplain. A Right to Lifer should be protesting or raising awareness at all the places that violate our Church's teachings. Tunnel vision on one issue is no vision at all, you are failing to see the whole picture.

I challenge every Men's and Ladies' Hibernian Divisions to take the money you would have spent

going to the Right to Life March, rally, dinner, breakfasts and such in Washington DC and donate that money to a Catholic Charities program in your Diocese that helps teen mothers who have made the choice to keep their child. Imagine if every year the LAOH and AOH were able to make major donations to local community-based programs in support of young people who actually made the correct choice. Instead of spending money on hotel rooms, transportation, taxis, meals, ads in journals, and dinner tickets, we should be donating the money to these Catholic based community charities. That is actually getting more bang for your buck. The laws in this country aren't going to change. We can change the individual lives of both the parent and the child by supporting the people who listened and made the right choice. Let's reward and support those people in need, and not the Washington DC corporations, hotel chains, and expense accounts.

If you think I crossed the line, send comments directly to me. I prefer to be a woman of action supporting those keeping their child and in engaging in educating all in being a Pro-Life Catholic and not just a single partial vision issue person. natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com

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St Brigid's Day Recipe

An old St Brigid's Day tradition that became a popular treat all year & curiously especially around Halloween is a fruitcake known as Brack or Barmbrack (Báirín Breac) meaning "speckled loaf."

Because it was quick to make & originally required few ingredients, it was a popular choice to celebrate St Brigid's Day and treat visitors that would come to the house offering Brid dolls, crosses or other treats. As with many customs, the ingredients depended on what was available or preferred locally. These cakes included almost always raisins, sometimes currants, sometimes various dried or candied fruits, and sometimes tea or whiskey.

A slice of Barmbrack was also left on the table, on the windowsill or outside the door overnight on St Brigid's Eve (last night of January) along with milk, butter and/or other treats made for St Brigid who traveled that night blessing her faithful followers or for a more needy soul who was hungry.

Today, this cake that treated St Brigid Day celebrants is more associated with Halloween/Samhain & many include a toy ring, coin or other items inside the cake to foretell a fortune - similar to the "King Cake" tradition of American Mardi Gras.

Here is one recipe to celebrate St Brigid's Day with a cinnamon raisin Barmbrack:

INGREDIENTS

1 cup raisins (add 1 cup of currants if preferred)
1 tea spoon ground cinnamon
1 tea spoon mixed spice
1/2 tea spoon nutmeg
(Add a couple of drops of whiskey if preferred)
2 teaspoons of active dried yeast
1 or 2 tea spoons of sugar depending on preference
1/3 cup of granulated sugar
3 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour

3/4 cup milk
1/2 tea spoon of salt
4 table spoons of melted unsalted butter
1 large egg whisked
zest of half lemon (if preferred)

Soak raisins and currants in bowl of cold water (or black tea) for 6 hours .

Stir strongly the yeast and tea spoon of sugar in milk. Wait 10-15 minutes as it sets.

Mix the flour, sugar, spices and salt and stir in bowl then create a well and add the melted butter, egg, lemon zest and yeast mixture and knead. The dough should be very thick when done.

Drain the raisins or currants as well and add to the dough and knead. Keep the liquid and add some of it until the dough softens.

Cover the bowl and let the dough rise for two hours or until it has increased in the size you want to serve it.

Lightly pat down the dough a bit, place in loaf pan.

Lightly cover the pan and let the dough rise one hour or until it reaches serving size you wish.

Preheat oven to 350

Bake the brack 50-60 minutes (less if making two or more smaller loaves) or until you place a knife in the middle of the loaf & it comes out clean with nothing on it.

Remove from oven, cool, slice and enjoy with your favorite butter or dry!

Thank you to Brigid Kildare FB page for the recipe.

Story continued on next page

St Brigid continued

St. Brigid's Novena

**Brigid,
You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.**

**May the mantle of your peace cover those
who are troubled and anxious,
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in
our world.
Inspire us to act justly, and to revere all God has
made.**

**Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the
weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness
in mind, body and spirit.**

Amen.



Baltimore County Division 14 book club is in its 15th year. The division established the book club to focus on Irish culture through the works of Irish and Irish American authors. An invitation was sent to other divisions to join. At the present time, there are 8 – 10 regular members who meet at a local restaurant for lunch and discussion. The group includes non LAOH members who are neighbors and friends. Due to the pandemic, the next meeting will be by zoom. Books are selected from Irish and American book reviews and literary awards.



The LAOH National Board is looking for help with a few projects. If you or someone you know can help, please reach out to National President, Karen Keane at natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com. Thank you in advance.

The board is looking for assistance with creating a video to show what the LAOH is all about. This will entail putting together pictures and adding a sound track over it. This will be used for advertising purposes.

The board is looking for assistance with interviewing and recording information from some of our older members to preserve the history of our order.

The board is looking for people who would be interested in doing presentations to the membership in areas such as healthy cooking, exercise or teaching Irish Language.

Choices have ranged from the nonfiction SAY NOTHING by Patrick Radden Keefe to Patrick Taylor's Irish Country Doctor series. Some of our favorite authors are: Colm Toibin, Joseph O'Connor, Tana French, Colum McCann, Alice McDermott, Benjamin Black, Jon Banville, Maggie O'Farrell.

The meetings are coordinated by Susan Blum Legg.





Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1894
Maire Leffel, Fundraising
nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

Congratulations to our Thanksgiving and Christmas Early Bird winners:

Thanksgiving 2020: Div. 1- IRISH MISSIONARIES, OH
Christmas 2020: SHARON KARRASS, CT

**THERE ARE OVER 250 TICKETS OUTSTANDING FROM THE NATIONAL BOARD
FUNDRAISING MAILING**

GET THOSE TICKETS IN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR
6 more months of winners!

\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2021
\$25.00 weekly winners for 26 weeks
Every Monday (January 4th, 2021 thru June 28th, 2021)

\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

July 4th, 2021

Tickets are \$20.00 each

Make checks payable to: **LAOH, Inc.**
C/o Maire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair
17710 Flamingo Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

LAOH scarfs are limited (less than 20 available) \$15.00 each

Need scarfs or more tickets, email me at: nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

Keep posted to: ladiesaoh.com for Fundraising details and winners!



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THANK YOU, SISTERS!!!

Top ticket sellers and bracelet promo recipients:

Top sellers (SOLD 20+ TICKETS)

Joan Gutzwiller, IN

Marianne Sweeney, NJ

Top sellers (sold 10+ tickets)

Eileen O'Malley, PA

Jane Bannon, MD

Doreen Roddy, CT

Top sellers (sold up to 10 tickets)

Lynn Burkart, CA	Sharon O'Rourke, CT
Eileen Chandler, FL	Ann Marie Nyhan Doherty, MA
Ann Durkin Fisher, MD	Denise McCarthy, MD
Maureen Winski, NJ	Mary Ellen O'Halloran, NJ
Teresa Hartey-Adametz, NY	Rita O'Hara, OH
Marie Rizzo, OH	Kathy Turk, OH
Nicole Skubal, PA	

Thank you, National Board members, Karen Keane,
Marilyn Madigan and Mary Jo Rawlins for your ticket sales!

MANY THANKS TO OUR TOP SELLERS OF SCARFS

Brianna Curran, PA	Lynn Burkart, CA
Sheila Zeineth, NY	Frances Koren, NY

Thanks again to National Board members Karen Keane, Marilyn Madigan and Cathy Turk!

Freedom For All Ireland – Dolores Desch

Christmas Appeal: The 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal is underway, and I am happy to report that donations are coming in from our Divisions so thank you for the work you are doing to make sure we have a successful Christmas Appeal! I recently emailed a copy of the current list of donations from each entity to all State Presidents, State FFAI chairs and FFAI subscribers. If you have any questions on the report, please send me an email. I will be collecting money all throughout the year so please keep the fundraising going! No word yet on when we will be sending the funds over but I will keep you posted. A reminder, please send your donations directly to me at: 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please include the check payable to: LAOH, Inc., the full name of your State, County, Division making the donation and a contact name with email address. Also, you may designate the donation to any of the following groups: Relatives for Justice, Holy Cross Trust, St. Patrick's Center-Downpatrick, Cairde, Belfast National Graves, Down Patriot Graves,

EALU, Tyrone, New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Tyrone AOH, Bridges Beyond Boxing, Belfast, Green Cross, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, Duchas-Oiriall, Ballymurphy Families Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust - Museum of Free Derry, Tyrone National Graves, The Witness Project-Seán Murray, The Pat Finucane Center.

Brexit News: We have witnessed history this month with the implementation of Brexit. We are seeing the effects already in the ports where trucks and shipping containers are piling up. Issues with Customs and paperwork are clogging the border crossings. Thankfully there was an agreement struck between the UK and the EU regarding the border in the Irish Sea and that the Withdrawal Agreement and Good Friday Agreement were honored. The efforts to foster a united Ireland have benefitted from the backlash of Brexit. The fact that most voters in the North of Ireland voted to remain says a lot about how they feel about their identity - European or British? While there

FFAI continued

are still a substantial number of those who would prefer to be British and remain with the union, Brexit has forced many to look at the benefits of being European. Many unionists in the north of Ireland have applied for Irish passports which they automatically qualify for. Irelands Future is a group that are trying to address the issues behind a united Ireland in a factual, non-partisan and nonpolitical way <https://irelandsfuture.com/>. Sinn Fein has been very vocal on this issue over the past year and we expect to see the Irish government set up a group to further the One Island concept.

FFAI Events and Webinars: In early December we held a webinar with our AOH brothers and speakers from the north of Ireland to mark the 40th anniversary of the start of the Hunger Strikes. The first set of Hunger Strikes started in October of 1980 and lasted 53 days. We heard from Hunger Striker Tommy McKearney who talked about the background and reason for the Hunger Strikes, which were to force the British government to treat Republican prisoners as political prisoners and not criminals. Prior to 1976, republican prisoners could wear their own clothes, receive parcels and had political prisoner status. In 1976 changes were made to classify these prisoners as criminals resulting in their losing privileges, especially the right to not put on a prison uniform. This was the start of the Blanket Protests where republican prisoners refused to wear a prison uniforms and wore only a blanket. The Hunger Strike was carried out to try to get their demands met. Tommy explained that he was very close to death and was in disbelief when he was told that the Republican prisoner leadership had called off the strike due to Margaret Thatcher agreeing to the terms. We heard from Andree Murphy, Deputy Director at Relatives for Justice, who described the effect that the Hunger Strike had on the community and republican movement. Several women in the Armagh Prison joined in the Hunger Strike as well. This served to expand support and cause protests and marches across the north, bringing the issue to the world stage. It was a month after the first Hunger strike ended that it became evident that there was no agreement for political status. Months later the next Hunger the next Hunger Strike began resulting in the death of 10 prisoners, Bobby Sands being the first.

On January 23 Hibernians hosted a webinar to support Relatives for Justice and the victims of state collusion and their families. These families have

waited over 30 years for their loved ones' deaths to be investigated and for fair and detailed investigations to be conducted. Family members, 3,499 in total, signed an open letter to An Taoiseach and the British PM asking for immediate implementation of the Stormont House Agreement of 2014 which was created to deal with the legacy issues of the past.

Pat Finucane Case: On November 30, 2020 Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis was ordered by the UK Supreme Court to issue his 'decision' on opening up a new, public inquiry into the killing of Pat Finucane. The week before that decision was due, and under the direction of President Keane, I issued a Call to Action to ask all of you to contact your Congressional representative immediately and request that they sign on to the bipartisan letter drafted by Chris Smith-R and Richie Neal-D directed to Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging him to establish a full, public inquiry into the murder of human rights attorney Patrick Finucane.

Multiple investigations commissioned by the UK government have pointed to security force collusion in the Finucane case. Despite the David Cameron apology in 2012 to the Finucane family in the House of Commons where he acknowledged there had been "shocking levels of collusion" in what was one of the most controversial killings of the Troubles, despite the multiple investigations that uncovered collusion and published accounts of collusion connected to this murder, despite one of the guns used to kill Pat being traced to the British Army and despite the Stormont House Agreement which stated the need for legacy issues to be resolved, there has never been a public inquiry. Geraldine Finucane, wife of Pat Finucane, injured in the attack, left a widow with three traumatized children who huddled under the table and watched as their father was shot over a dozen times as he lay on their kitchen floor, has spent the last 31 years actively working to uncover the truth behind the murder of her husband. Despite the efforts of many, on November 30, UK Secretary of State Brandon Lewis issued his decision – he denied the family the request for a full public inquiry. The family was devastated, they had put some much energy into the past 18 months that this recent battle had started – yet they met this setback with dignity, issuing their statements of shock, disbelief and yet familiar denial for justice by the UK government. The world

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was watching, and we all saw a family that was again shattered by an overt denial of justice, but not being beaten. They were standing up to their attacker, displaying their courage, strength and determination to continue to fight for Pat and other families. In fact, the family was subsequently awarded a 7,500 Euro settlement for damages from NI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis for breaching human rights over the Pat Finucane probe decision delay. They need our support now more than ever as they continue the fight for the justice they deserve. Please remember the Finucane family in your prayers as we approach the anniversary of Pat's death on February 12, 1989.

Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee, who will receive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which contains updated information as well as FFAI news. If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at laohnationalffai@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.



Deadline for the next Lady Hibernian Herald– April 15th. Please send articles to laohnationalnews@gmail.com



Meet Your State Presidents

This month we get to know Rosemary Corrigan, state president of Montana. Rosemary has been a member of the LAOH for 30 years. She is a member of Anaconda Division 1 in Anaconda, Montana. Her division currently has more than 120 members. There are four divisions in Montana, with about 223 members statewide.

Rosemary has been married for 55 years to her husband, Jim, an AOH member. She has 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She had a Catholic education and attended Carrol College in Montana. She is active in the Anaconda Catholic Community. She is a Eucharistic minister, is on the environmental committee and taught religious education for 20 years. Along with her husband, she also did marriage preparation classes. She is active in her community garden club; growing and maintaining the hanging flower baskets on the 65 antique light polls in the warm months and adorning them with garland and lights to celebrate the holidays around the

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State presidents continued

town square. She enjoys golf and playing bridge and belongs to a book club. She has been to Ireland 3 times and cannot wait to travel again in hopes of another visit. Her face lights up as she speaks of the people she met on her trips into the countryside.

Rosemary has previously been Division President and State Vice President before becoming State President in 2019. She has a supportive board who work well together. Like many states, there is a challenge of getting together due to the distance of the members. In August they held their Lady of Knock celebration with all the divisions in the state. They held it outside so they could socially distance and observe all safety protocols. It was wonderful getting everyone together.

Rosemary notes that out of all the bad 2020 brought us, it also brought us Zoom get togethers. By offering Zoom meetings, presentations and committee meetings, all members can feel more involved. She believes that this has been the positive from it all. She feels like she is more involved and has the support she needs from the National board.

St. Brigid's Day Mass

St. Brigid's Day is an important day in the LAOH Calendar. Throughout the country, our Divisions are honoring our Patron St. Brigid with Masses and Celebrations. Many of our Divisions will not be able to have their Annual Celebrations due to Covid restrictions. This Feast Day needs to be celebrated. Our Chaplain Fr. Ryan Duns will be celebrating Mass for our members on Sunday January 31 at 2:00pm EST. Catholic Action Officer Peggy Cornish has prepared a Booklet for this event which will be sent to State Presidents and Catholic Action Officers to be distributed to our members. The Mass will be held on ZOOM. Information to join the ZOOM Mass is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85111383455?pwd=RjgvdjhNVnVjQVE0c0E5VkhlaDRzdz09>

Meeting ID: 851 1138 3455

Passcode: 943665

We are planning to share on Youtube and Facebook. Please join our LAOH National Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwiWZjklavtrurGsqzDUopA>

and our Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ladiesaoh2016>

Looking forward to your participation in our first National Celebration of St. Brigid's Day. This is our first attempt at using ZOOM, Youtube and Facebook so please be patient with us.

The Story Of St Brigid's Cross

St Brigid who was born in Dundalk in 450 AD is accredited with creating the very first unique cross which we know to today is called "**St Brigid's Cross**".

Well, it is an age-old tale. An old chieftain lay on his death bed (some people suggest that it was St Brigid's father). The servants summoned St Brigid to help calm the chieftain down and to settle his soul.

St Brigid is believed to have sat down next to the chieftain on the bed and picked up some straw from the ground. From there she wove the straw into a cross. While Brigid was doing this she explained the meaning of the cross to the chieftain.

It is believed that her calm words did indeed calm the chieftain's soul. In fact, the chieftain was so impressed by her explanation that he requested to be baptized as a Christian and shortly passed away later, peacefully.





Join your Sisters from across the country for Tea and
Chocolate with

Karen Keane

LAOH National President

Saturday, Feb 13th at 4:00pm Eastern

If you want to spend some social time with your Hibernian Sisters, please RSVP before
2/11 to:

laohcountmein@gmail.com

with the Subject line: Galentines' Day
You will receive the invite before the event
Social event, no business questions please!

John Boyle O'Reilly

John Boyle O'Reilly was an Irish-American poet, journalist, author and activist. As a youth in Ireland, he was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, or Fenians, for which he was transported to Western Australia. Born June 28 1844 in Dowth Passage Tomb, Ireland. Died August 10, 1890 Brookline, Ma.

A White Rose

*The red rose whispers of passion,
And the white rose breathes of love;
O, the red rose is a falcon,
And the white rose is a dove.
But I send you a cream-white rosebud
With a flush on its petal tips;
For the love that is purest and sweetest
Has a kiss of desire on the lips*

Subscribe to the LAOH National channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCwiWZjklavtrurGsqqDUopA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwiWZjklavtrurGsqqDUopA)

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians **Facebook** page

<https://www.facebook.com/ladiesaoh2016>

State News

LAOH JFK Division 1, Albany, NY

As 2020 winds down, and will soon close, it seems a time to reflect on how different this year has been. It has been incredibly challenging for all of us, in many ways. People have been working from home, children have been educated “remotely” we have been meeting “virtually.” We have been missing the company of others, and the many enjoyable events we were unable to hold ever since the spring.

But enough of what we have missed out on this year. We have to keep in mind that, while we have not been together very much, our Division has been very busy helping those less fortunate in our community. In July, we collected Baby Shower items for Community Maternity Services of Catholic Charities in the Albany Diocese. In August, we put out a call for personal care items for Family Promise of the Capital Region,

an organization that helps homeless families. In September we donated a carload of school supplies to Emmaus House in Albany. In October “Nina’s Closet” delivered Halloween Costumes to some very happy children at Family Promise. Also in October, Chris O’Reilly and Nancy Holland collected socks in conjunction with our sisters in Schenectady for their “Soctober” project, to help the homeless. And just last week, we collected 15 bags of hats, gloves, and scarves for those who are cold and are not able to purchase these items!

We have so much to be thankful for. We have a tremendous group of Ladies in our Division, and we have a great deal to be proud of. We can’t wait until we can be back together again. Until then, we will continue to live our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

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State News continued



Pictured: Fr. Thomas Mahoney, Division Chaplain, holding our 2020 Christmas Zoom Mass, in honor of our dearly departed members. Members pictured in attendance: Rasa Chambers, Maire Leffel (LAOH National Fundraiser), Patty Lavelle (Division Vice President) and Rita Lally (Division Catholic Action).



JFK Division 1, Albany, NY items collected

Cleveland, Ohio Our Lady of the Rosary Division

Although the Year 2020 did have some major challenges and low points for our Membership, we should also count our blessings. The Division is celebrating the **Fifteen Year Anniversary of Fr. Thomas Mahoney** as our Division Chaplain! We were blessed the year he accepted this role and his willingness to continue with us for over the past 15 years. We thank you Father for cheerfully taking on new challenges.

Mahoning County, Division 6, Golden Rose, Ohio

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians held a toy drive on December 4 and December 5 to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Society. Generous donations from ChickFila Southern Park Mall and Mission BBQ provided sandwich vouchers for the donation of an unwrapped toy. With the help of the community, the AOH and LAOH were able to provide over 220 items to St. Vincent de Paul, which they will distribute to children with Christmas dinner.



Shannon Lehn, President of LAOH Mahoning County, Division 6, Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland, and Liam Lehn, Ohio AOH State Director, display the toys that were donated for St. Vincent de Paul.

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State News continued

LAOH Division 10-- Lynn, MA

Though COVID-19 has ruined our plans to be together in person, Division Ten in Lynn, MA has worked to stay as connected as possible. We just wrapped up what is typically our largest fundraiser- our Prize-O-Rama, where our members donate goods and we raffle them off. This year, we held it virtually, and we asked our members to purchase gift cards from local business because we wanted to lend a hand to those around us who are hurting. After utilizing social media to advertise, we had an online raffle on Saturday January 9th, and we raised twice the amount of money we typically do! This money goes back to helping our Lynn community, but is also used in service of the LAOH charities. We are thankful for our generous members and family and friends for their participation!

Another way to attempt to stay connected, we are starting a “Sisters System,” basically a pen pal situation where interested members are signing up, we are pairing them up, and then, every two weeks or so, they will get in contact with each other, whether over email, phone, or sending cards to each other. We are hopeful this is a way to stave off any loneliness the winter months may hold.

MICHIGAN

Many Divisions held in person meetings September through November, while others, including our State Board held their meeting via zoom. Our governor shut down many activities, therefore canceling Thanksgiving and Christmas events and weekly activities at the AOH Hall in Redford Michigan where many LAOH Divisions hold meetings and affairs.

This is what some Michigan Divisions have been able to accomplish during this time.

Margaret Noe, President of Our Lady of Knock Division in Adrian, reports they have met three times during the Covid-19 pandemic, once for a dinner and twice for fellowship and meeting discussions. During this time, we were able to contribute to the food pantry at a time that permitted the funds to do the most good. We were also able to talk about the importance of the Famine Mass for the Irish, however, we felt the importance of respecting the health guidelines, thus canceling the Mass this year with the hope and

expectation of bringing it back to the Irish Hills Shrine next year. Lastly, we did enjoy the company of one another when we met last. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold an election of officers. We are ready to hold an election once we are able to comfortably get back together again.

The Rose Kennedy Division of Wayne County held in person meetings September, October and November. Blankets were collected at the October meeting. In November to commemorate An Gorta Mor, members brought in non-perishable food as well as paper and plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons for St. Christine’s Food Pantry. The latter items were for donated produce and eggs given out at the Food Pantry. Their popular and much anticipated Christmas Fair also fell victim to the Covid virus.

We traditionally have a Mass in November with the AOH to remember deceased members. This year the LAOH, headed by our State President, Barb Weir, held a Memorial Service on zoom, Sunday, November 15th, with Elizabeth Fagan Division Chaplain, Deacon Pat Conlon leading us in prayer. This was followed by the reading of the names of our deceased LAOH members.

Anne Lezotte, President of the Sarah Regan Division in Livingston County, reports they dropped off a check for \$1000.00 to the Livingston County Catholic Charities, and a check for \$100.00 to the Pregnancy Helpline of Livingston County. Finally, they sent a check to the Food Pantry of St. Joe’s Catholic Church. As Anne said, “God has blessed us with a few extra dollars in our account so that we could help in this time of great need.”

Ethel Kennedy Division, Macomb Township, reports the following: This has been a rough year for everyone, and it has left many people in hardship. Although the Ethel Kennedy Division has not been able to meet in person we have not missed a meeting. We started meeting via conference call and now via zoom. We have a high participation level at our virtual meetings with at least three quarters of our members zooming in. Our members have been very generous with donations totaling almost \$500.00, which we have passed along to various food pantries. In conjunction

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with our AOH, Fr. Solanus Casey Division, we collected food and donated quite a few boxes of food together with donations of \$600 to a local Catholic church food pantry. We also supported our sister division, Rose Kennedy Division, with a \$200 donation for their St. Brigid Hibernian Scholarship which is usually held in February. The prize money for this scholarship goes to the girl's schools. We are very proud to be able to continue our charitable donations especially through this pandemic.

The Catherine McAuley Division from Oakland County, Michigan reports that this has certainly been a strange and difficult year for everyone, but this Christmas season it is important to reflect on all that is good and what each of us can do to better our world going forward. Although fundraisers were pretty non-existent this year the Catherine McAuley team was able to rock it out with a Virtual Trivia Night which resulted in an additional \$412.00 in their treasury. This helped them perform these 'Acts of Kindness': Donations of household and craft goods for the Matrix Human Services Organization plus a financial donation to help the families in Detroit whom they support. They helped keep the AOH hall afloat during the shutdowns with a financial contribution. Supported our Columban and Pallotine Fathers with mass cards to remember loved ones. Christmas was brighter for children through member's generosity to the Most Holy Trinity's Children's Christmas Party. Our financial support was also extended this Christmas to Sanctum House, an organization helping to combat human trafficking and recovery programs.

The Elizabeth Fagan Division, Wayne County continued to make donations to the Pope Francis Center for the Homeless through their wish list of underwear, sweats, gloves, socks, hand warmers, etc. They provided the funeral luncheon for a member who lost her husband. The food was prepared by division members and set up in a tent outdoors in keeping with covid 19 guidelines. They held their Christmas meeting and "party" on Zoom.

Although our state has been on shutdown for longer than most states, being resourceful Irish women, we

are still finding ways to help the needy in our respective areas, praying for those who have died, for their families, for those battling the virus, for a safe vaccine and for God to give us the strength and patience to endure this trial.

The Golden Rose division in Austin, Texas

On January 3rd, The Golden Rose division in Austin, Texas hosted a virtual Zoom baby shower for Jamie Berry, our division secretary, and her husband Justin. LAOH member guests were able to send gifts through her registry, and we were able to adapt a couple of traditional baby shower games to the Zoom environment. Shannon Lennon was the winner of "The Price is Right" and Susan O'Keeffe was the winner of "Scattergories." Jamie and her husband Justin were able to show off the nursery and open gifts on camera, and Amy Lutrell lead a beautiful prayer for the new family. Although we couldn't share cupcakes and coffee, we sure shared a lot of laughs. No pandemic will keep these Irish Catholic sisters isolated for long. The bonds of LAOH sisterhood is too strong!



Story continued on next page

State news Continued

JFK Division 1, Schenectady NY

In December, the ladies donated turkeys and all the fixings to provide 100 hot dinners to a grassroots organization in the city. Street Soldiers, Schenectady was started by volunteers and completely funded by donations from individuals and small businesses. Their mission is to help those in need each Sunday by providing a hot meal, pantry and personal items, warm clothing, take home lunches, animal food, diapers, and formula to anyone who shows up. The need for basic items has grown in Schenectady and the number of homeless has tripled. Tents, tarps, camp stoves and sleeping bags are handed out to those in need each week as well.

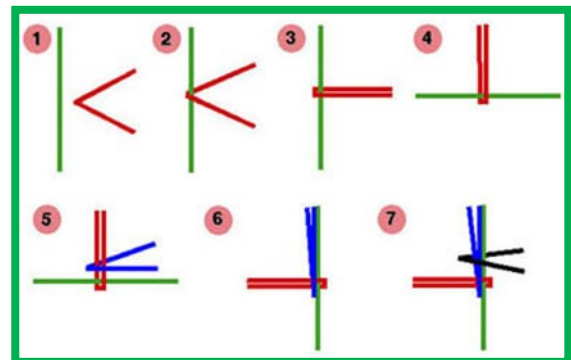
The Sunday before Christmas, Street Soldiers held their Christmas celebration. They had stockings for everyone and toys for the children. The LAOH wanted to make sure everyone took a hot meal home that day.

In January, the LAOH collected 15 complete 'dinner for 4' bags. These included everything needed for tuna casserole, chili, and chicken and biscuits dinner. They also made and delivered 40 containers of turkey and rice soup.



Turkey dinners boxed and ready to go to those in need

How to make a St. Brigid Cross



Hold one of the reeds vertically. Fold a second reed in half as in the diagram. Place the first vertical reed in the center of the folded second reed. Turn the two rushes held together 90 degrees counterclockwise so that the open ends of the second reed are pointing vertically upwards. Fold a third reed in half and over both parts of the second reed to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Turn the 3 reeds 90 degrees counterclockwise so that the open ends of the third reed are pointing upwards. Fold a new reed in half over and across all the rushes pointing upwards. Repeat the process until all rushes have been used up to make the cross. Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length.



Members Shelly Valek and Cathy Turck, along with volunteers Colleen Hellriegel, Emma and Ciara box up turkey dinners for those in need.