

Kate McCarthy from LAOH Division 1, Orange County, California, gave a talk on Patrick Pearse's letter to his mother after the 1916 Rising. She was an invited speaker for the AOH annual 1916 Rising commemoration event. Kate spoke of Patrick Pearse's letter to his mother, which expressed a great love for her but also a great love for Ireland. She closed her talk with the reading of the poem The Mother.

**The Mother**  
**By Pádraig Pearse**

I do not grudge them: Lord, I do not grudge  
My two strong sons that I have seen go out  
To break their strength and die, they and a  
few,  
In bloody protest for a glorious thing,  
They shall be spoken of among their people,  
The generations shall remember them,  
And call them blessed;  
But I will speak their names to my own  
heart  
In the long nights;  
The little names that were familiar once  
Round my dead hearth.  
Lord, thou art hard on mothers:  
We suffer in their coming and their going;  
And tho' I grudge them not, I weary, weary  
Of the long sorrow--And yet I have my joy:  
My sons were faithful, and they fought

God Bless Ireland  
Dia dhaibh Eire  
Freedom forever  
saoirse go deo

