

# Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

## President's Message

What a year we have had! As I reflect on all that has happened in 2020 one of the things that stands out above all else is that against all this uncertainty, we persevered.



Divisions found creative ways to meet. Some through Zoom, others in church parking lots and even a few met in the backyards of our LAOH sister's homes. Virtual fundraisers took the place of in person fundraisers. Thanks to your creative thinking, we surpassed previous year's numbers.

Many of our sisters found themselves working on the frontlines of the pandemic and others put their talents to use by making masks and delivering food to those in need.

We joined in prayer for the healing of our country, for the sick and for those LAOH sisters we have lost. When all has been said and COVID-19 is behind us, we will be able to look back and say, "look at what we accomplished". I had faith in each one of my Maryland LAOH sisters and could never be prouder of all the work you did in seeing us through this past year.

This year will be one of many challenges; funds need to be raised on division and state levels and we have a State Convention to plan. If we could make it through 2020 on lock down and wearing masks, imagine what we can accomplish when the doors open and the masks come off!

-Kathy Norris-



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Feb., Mar., Apr. 2021

## Calendar

### January

**Jan. 31** 2 PM ZOOM, National LAOH St. Brigid's Mass,  
Contact [laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com)

### February

**Feb. 4:** MD March For Life, [www.mdmonthforlife.com](http://www.mdmonthforlife.com),  
4:30 PM

**Feb. 17:** Ash Wednesday

### March

**Mar.6:** 10 AM, LAOH State Board Meeting via ZOOM

### April

**Apr.:** 4: Easter Sunday

## Cultural Corner

STRANGE FLOWERS by Donal Ryan  
AFTER THE SILENCE by Louise  
O'Neill  
LIFE SENTENCES BY Billy  
O'Callaghan

-Joanna Cox-



## LAOH Website

Go to [www.marylandlaoh.org](http://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/marylandlaoh>

## Gatherings

Happy New Year, Sisters!

I gave serious thought to my 2021 New Year's resolutions. And, like prior years, I have some great ones - ones that won't see the light of February. Why is that? What does God say about new beginnings? Read Isaiah 43:18-19:

**"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, *I am doing a new thing!* Now it springs up; *do you not perceive it? I am making a way* in the desert and streams in the wasteland."**

It is God, not us, who determines the new thing (the resolution). Our egos can make yearly resolutions, but if they are not aligned with God's will ... well, maybe that's why He made February. How do we perceive this new thing?

**Pray.** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." Isaiah 55:8

**Meditate.** "Blessed is the one ... who meditates on his law day and night..." Psalm 1:1-2

**Trust.** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

**Believe.** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

And, when February does roll around, remember: "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." Luke 15:20



**-Sharon Sullivan-**

## Cecil County, Division 1

In November we managed to squeeze in one more outdoor division meeting. Anne Fazio organized a food drive for the St



Vincent de Paul Society at Good Shepherd in Perryville. Just before Thanksgiving, we met there to drop off some much-needed canned goods.

I participated in the Annapolis silent auction and won the Moscow Mule items! Spent a lovely Sunday afternoon in Annapolis meeting the junior division and other members that were picking up silent auction items and touring around the state capitol and waterfront.

In January I won the owl umbrella at the Tombola drawing and we had our first Zoom meeting!

JoAnne Bierly has been preparing new Green Books for our entire Division which will be distributed at our next food drive organized by our Good Shepherd members on January 23 (snow date Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>).

The 1st Annual "Fill the Trunk" event in support of the SVDP Society food pantry will be at the following locations: St. Agnes and St. Teresa's Parking Lots 11AM – Noon Good Shepherd Parking Lot 11AM and 3PM – 4 PM Contact [anne.fazio@zoominternet.net](mailto:anne.fazio@zoominternet.net)

Bette Green and Pat Widmayer are in the early stages of planning for the installation of a small shrine at two churches in Cecil County. One will honor St. Brigid and the other, Lady of Knock.

At the close of the meeting, we celebrated Women's Little Christmas by playing "Name that tune", with Irish Christmas music and shared some good craic! In our Motto,

**-Christine Hild, President-**

## Howard County, Division 1

It is with grateful hearts that we close 2020 and begin 2021 with hope. Many of us were saddened to celebrate the holidays without families and friends gathered around, but we heeded the call to help prevent COVID-19 spread. Despite challenges, we closed 2020 on a positive note:

- Members attended monthly Zoom meetings.
- We submitted a National Irish History Contest essay now under State review.
- Our Chaplain, Deacon Paul Gifford, provided a 4-week Advent reflection. It provided a wonderful spiritual preparation for Christmas.

- Members attended the Spirituality Committee's Rosary on 12/8/2020.
- We partnered with Knights of Columbus St. John's Council 7559 for a charity wine-tasting held virtually on 12/12/2020. We baked almost 70 dozen ginger, sugar and chocolate oatmeal cookies for the event, created/donated several baskets for auction, and assisted with wine-bag pick-up. Our Division donated \$1733 (its entire portion of the proceeds) to Columbia Community Care, a local non-profit providing food and supplies for those in the community negatively impacted by the pandemic. We want to thank the Maryland LAOH State President for helping bake cookies and our Sisters in other Divisions who supported our Division's efforts.
- Members enjoyed the camaraderie of the 12/18/2020 Maryland LAOH Christmas party and the reading of "An Irish Night Before Christmas" by a 'volunteered' Division husband.
- Members purchased tombola tickets supporting Maryland LAOH Missions and Charities.

As 2021 begins, we pray that our Sisters remain safe and healthy and that the new year is one of blessings.

**-Sharon Strobel, President-**

### Harford County, Division 2

Our St. Ita Mass occurred on Friday, January 15th at 9:30 AM at St. Mark, Fallston. Our division and guests were invited to attend in person or virtually. Gifts were donated for the St.

Gabriel Network and for our troops.



Division 2 is the St. Ita Division. The following dialogue is attributed between St. Brendan, the Navigator, and his teacher St. Ita:

What three things most pleased God? -*A pure and faithful heart, a simple spiritual life, and generous acts of charity.*

What three things most offend Him? -*A resentful heart, hateful words and worship of*

*material things.*

The State Board voted to give Thelma Graziano a Maryland State Life Membership in December 2020.

Since we lost our bus fundraiser last year we are offering a raffle fundraiser. First prize: a \$100 gift card from Harford Home and Mattress donated by Mike Graziano. Second prize: a basket of lovely Irish items. Tickets are \$1.00 each and may be obtained from Mary Asaki at [mary.asaki@gmail.com](mailto:mary.asaki@gmail.com) or 443-504-3260. Our goal is to sell 600 tickets.

Light, love and peace for 2021,

**-Gleela Kolakowski, Reporter-**  
**Baltimore City, Division 1**

Happy New Year 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. Nothing better fulfills our commitment to Christian charity than giving these women a hand up and helping them rebuild their lives.

We hope to soon be able to hold meetings again, the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, location to be determined. We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

**-Dorothy Reed, Reporter**

### Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters

We hope things are going better for you than what's happening to our country. The images we saw of rioters storming our capitol were very disturbing. We hope no one was in Washington during this event. It was a blessing that most of us were following the CDC guidelines and staying at home.

Although it's not ideal, our Division is meeting each month via telephone. Our president is keeping us abreast of information coming from National. We also get a chance to hear anything noteworthy from each of our members.

We are still promoting chances on our gift. Chances are available now from Pat Zaccari. They are \$2 a piece or 3 for \$5. You can reach Pat by email [vangoghatphoenix@aol.com](mailto:vangoghatphoenix@aol.com) or 14100 Blenheim Rd N. Phoenix, MD 21131. The drawing is postponed until our Christmas Party in December 2021.

This COVID virus has taken a toll on us. We all know at least on person who has either tested positive or has had the virus. We need to hold on a bit longer. Remember to pray for our sisters who are ill or are in need of the Lord's help. Be safe and may God bless you until we can all meet again.

**-Mary Helen Miller, Reporter-**



### Anne Arundel County

Happy New Year, Sisters!

Anne Arundel County had a fantastic finish to 2020. Thank you for the support from all of our members that participated in our silent auction. A super special shout out to Mary Asaki who won eight baskets, including the beautiful, handmade Irish quilt. Several of our members culminated 2020 attending the fantastic, fun-filled Feliz Navidad function hosted by our State Officers. Thank you, Ladies; it was a lot of laughs.

It is a new year, 2021. For us it will be a year to persevere and that is what we intend to do in our 40<sup>th</sup> year as a division! We are getting right to work on several different initiatives; foremost, State reports, then dispersing our funds to our local charities and to our national organization sponsored charities.

We continue to meet virtually on the third Sunday of the month and to recruit new members. We are looking forward to participating in many LAOH events, albeit some virtual.

We hope you will join us in celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. - Hats off to our charter members- Barbara Halliwell and Mary Brennan. Definitely more information will come regarding this. The past is behind, learn from it.

The future is ahead, prepare for it. The present is here, live it! Take care and God bless!

*-Jane Bannon, President-*

### Baltimore County, Division 1

We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year in 2021. I know we are all waiting for this pandemic to end so we can get together again to enjoy each other's company at the meetings, fundraisers and to attend mass in person, if you haven't been able to so far.

We hope everyone had fun at the Zoom Christmas Party. It was great to see everyone. The story "An Irish Night Before Christmas" was the perfect ending to a cheerful event. We're happy for all the winners for the Tombola Raffle. Two ladies in our division won prizes – Yeah! and a few of our ladies, instead of buying chances, donated money directly to the raffle to help make it a success!

We still have not been able to hold a meeting due to the safety restrictions at Charlestown but are very glad everyone is safe and healthy. We have sent donations to Center for Pregnancy Concerns, Maryland Food Bank, Catholic Charities for Hurricane



Relief Fund, the Oblate Sisters and Little Sisters of the Poor and now have to come up with a fundraiser to build up our treasury.



"May the love and protection St Patrick can give,  
Be yours in abundance as long as you live."

*Maureen Shettle, President-*

### Carroll County, Division 1

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

We pray to see an end to this Pandemic with the release of the Covid Vaccine. Our Division did meet on November 8<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting we discussed the Family we would be sponsoring for Christmas and planned our December meeting/party. Unfortunately when December rolled around we were forced to cancel meeting/party because of the increase in Covid numbers. We were still able to collect gifts and gift cards for the Family we sponsored. We will not be meeting in January.

We are planning to do a virtual fundraiser for our Division. It will be a raffle and hope to have that information out to our Sister Hibernians soon. Carroll County Colleens continue to keep all of our Sisters in our prayers.

Please join us in Praying for a relief to this Pandemic and for Peace in our troubled Country. God Bless Us All.  
Respectfully,

*-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary-*

### Baltimore County, Division 14

Greetings from Division 14!

Our annual holiday blanket collection looked a little different this year! The ladies hosted a COVID-safe, parking lot blanket drop off in the middle of December for Viva House. It was a rousing success! We also selected My Sister's Place, Marian House, Little Sisters of the Poor, and Mother Seton Academy

for our 2020 charitable giving organizations. The division has also started selling Keep Christ in Christmas car magnets. If anyone is interested, please contact Katie McCune.

Going into the New Year, the division plans to continue to use Zoom to host our monthly meetings. Please keep an eye out for a mailing with the contact information to call or log into the meeting!

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter!

**-Ashley Knapik, President-**

### Harford County, Division 1

Upcoming charitable event!

Harford County Division 1 is having a virtual basket of cheer raffle.. The date of the drawing will be April 11, 2021 at Division 1's virtual meeting.

Please-if you are needing some "cheering up", purchase tickets for our basket of cheer. The items in the basket, as well as the information needed to purchase tickets, will be distributed to division presidents in an email. Be ready!

**- Christine Brown, President-**

### Worcester County, Division 1

Greetings from the beach... As winter settles in here by the



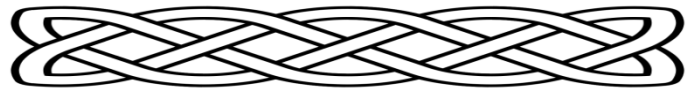
ocean, so do the peaceful days along the Atlantic. We need these peaceful days during the unsettled times we are surrounded by. Since we have not had any division meetings it seems that the peaceful days have provided us with a good atmosphere for prayer. We have been trying to remember family, friends, country and especially Hibernian sisters in our daily prayers.

Those of us who can will take part in the National LAOH St. Brigid's Mass via Zoom. Shortly after that four of our members will be receiving certificates honoring them as State Life Members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. These

ladies have contributed 62 years of very active service to the LAOH and do not show any signs of slowing down. Thank you to Cathy Bocci, Celine Gilheany, Eleanor Holcomb and Nancy McCarthy.

We are looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day but are unsure if it will be with a parade or not. Hopefully by spring we will be able to have meetings again. This is one of the things we are praying for. God Bless all our Sisters state wide =you are all in our prayers.

**-Mary Rosenhagen, President-**



#### *The Peace Prayer*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.*



## 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.*