

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Reflections

In William Shakespeare's Sonnet 3, he writes "*Look into thy mirror and tell the face thou viewest*" As we reflect in our own mirror, what image do you see? Who is the reflection looking back at you? Is she everything you had hoped to be? "*Thou art thy mother's glass, and she in thee.*"

On my right chest I wear a badge that identifies me as your State President. Many of you will have the opportunity to wear a similar badge. It is what you do with it that reflects who you truly are. It comes with a pledge to uphold the office of the order, to change what is needed and to address the challenges of the order for future LAOH generations.

The Maryland State Board will be looking to fill Appointee Positions and Divisions will soon be holding their own elections. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to consider taking an active role within your divisions. You will never know the difference you can make to our order unless you take that first step.

Maryland LAOH has many challenges facing them in the future and we will need all untapped resources to reach our goal. Next time you wear your badge stand before the mirror, who do you see in the reflection? What are you doing with your hidden talent? Will the Maryland LAOH get a chance to see that talent or will they "*Die single and thine image dies with thee*"

Uachtarán (Maryland State President)

-Kathy Norris-

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/marylandlaoh>



Volume 56 No. 4 Oct., Nov., Dec., 2021 Jan., 2022

Calendar

October

Oct. 29-31: Maryland AOH-LAOH State Convention, Holiday Inn, 6600 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, 410 524 1600

November

Nov. 1-21: LAOH Anne Arundel's Tinsel Treasures: Bids-Nov. 1-14; Basket pick-up Nov. 20-21, Flyer

Nov. 12-14: Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium Fairgrounds; Volunteer! Contact Maureen Shettle

December

Dec. 4: Maryland State Board Meeting, 10 AM, location TBD

Dec. 11: LAOH Maryland Retreat Day "Mary", Charles Carroll House, Annapolis, Details to follow

January

Jan. 18: St. Ita Mass, St. Mark church, 6 PM, Harford, Div. 2, mary.asaki@gmail.com

Cultural Corner

THE WILD LAUGHTER by Caolinn Hughes
WE ARE NOT IN THIS WORLD by Conor O'Callaghan
WE ARE THE BRENNANS by Tracey Lange,
Irish Book Selection for October 19

Meet at Bluestone Restaurant at 1:00pm. Contact Susan Legg if you plan to attend, susan.legg@icloud.com

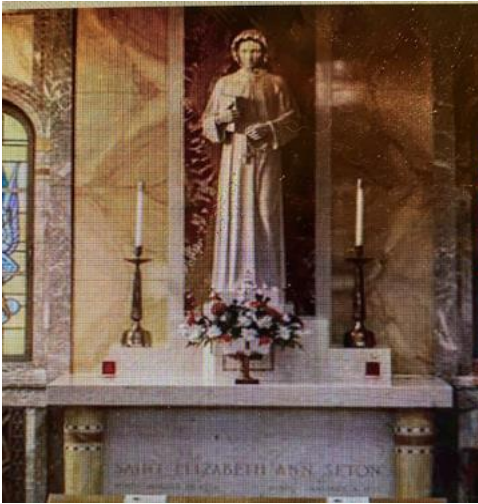
-Joanna Cox-



Gatherings

I had the privilege of visiting [The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton](#) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It's a great way to spend a Fall day - not crowded, and the grounds and surrounding countryside are beautiful. Emmitsburg is close to the Pennsylvania border and about 60 minutes from Baltimore.

First stop was the Visitors Center and Museum which recounted Mother Seton's life as a wife, mother, religious, widow, convert, educator, foundress, and Saint. Many of her possessions were donated to the Seton Shrine



by the Sisters of Charity. Among them are her bonnet, shawl, wedding ring, wedding brooch, bible, letters, tea box, christening gown, locks of her hair, as well as the three letters testifying to the miracles attributed to her intercession. It was all very moving and by the end of it, I had a whim to enter the convent and open a Catholic school.

Second stop was a tour of the "Stone House" where Mother Seton lived when she arrived in Emmitsburg in 1809, followed by a tour of the "White House" that served as the first free Catholic school in America. Located nearby and surrounded by a high stone wall, is the St. Joseph Cemetery, where Mother Seton was first interred in 1829.

Saving the best for last, was the Basilica – so very beautiful and peaceful. And, sure enough, beneath the altar and enclosed in marble, are Mother Seton's remains.

I encourage you to go – you will be touched.

-Sharon Sullivan-

Worcester County, Division 1

With the weather staying warm it hardly seems like October, but it really is and before we know it the convention will be over, and we'll be getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Here in Ocean City the ladies are working hard on preparing for our 1st Tea. We hope this will become an annual event. Everyone is having fun getting ready. It is still four weeks away and our event is almost sold out. We will also have some baskets similar to what we usually had at our card party.

At our November meeting we will be having our election of officers and the installation of officers will take place in January. Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas luncheon. The location has not been decided on at this time. We will again take care of needy families from our local parishes. Due to our funds being down because of Covid we will not be able to help as many families as usual.

During January and February, we will be collecting cereal for the Seton Center in Princess Anne, MD. The cereal is then delivered to the center in March and is greatly appreciated by the clients at the center.

On February 1st, we hope to have our Mass in honor of St. Brigid followed by breakfast. Details will follow when available. Your sisters in Ocean City Division hope everyone has a Blessed and Holy Holiday Season.

Submitted by,

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters

Hope all is well in spite of COVID still being among us. Please keep all our sisters in need of help in your prayers.

We have been having our monthly meetings either on line or in a local restaurant. Our October meeting will focus on our annual baby shower, recruiting new members and future fund raisers.



We are looking forward to LAOH Harford County 2's celebration of the Rosary, our Blessed Virgin and our personal dedications. It will be wonderful to come together in the spirit of prayer and solidarity.

We are still promoting chances on our gift basket. 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 or 14100 Blenheim Rd N. Phoenix, MD 21131. The drawing is postponed until our Christmas Party in December 2021.

Please pray that more people will be vaccinated and if possible, encourage those who are not vaccinated to discuss their concerns with their doctor. Be safe and may God bless you until we can all meet again.

Looking forward to happy times... Be safe

-Mary Miller, Reporter-

Harford County, Division 2

On October 19th we celebrated the Rosary at Holy Spirit Church. More will follow on this event in our January 2022



newsletter. Sisters Mary Asaki, Thelma Graziano, Marilyn Runge, and Jean Martin attended the State LAOH Convention in Ocean City, Maryland October 28-29. In November we plan to elect our officers for 2022-2024. We are also planning Christmas activities which will include a Christmas celebration at our December meeting along with visits to nursing homes and veteran's facilities. Also, at our December meeting we will have two drawings for first prize (an Irish basket) and second prize (an Italian basket).

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 tickets for \$5.00 or 15 tickets for \$10.00. Raffle tickets may be purchased from Mary Asaki at mary.asaki@gmail.com or 443-504-3260.

Our annual St. Ita Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:00 pm, at St. Mark Church. Attendees may bring donations for the St. Gabriel Network and Angels Support Your Troops. The State President will install our new officers at this Mass as well.

Peace,

-Gleela Kolakowski-

Harford County, Division 1

After the summer break, we resumed our monthly meetings in September at St. Mark's Church in Fallston. President, Christine Brown appointed Carole Franz, Ceil Terry and Eileen Verch to serve on the division nominating committee. A slate of officers was presented at the October meeting and elections will take place on November 21st.

Our Catholic Action project has been to collect items needed by Harford Family House which serves families experiencing homelessness with children. This could be a mom and children, a dad and children, or a married couple with children. Our donations will be delivered in November.

We have also made monetary donations to Harford Family House. In addition we donated to the Empty Stocking Fund, and have sent checks for needy families in St. Mark's parish, St. Joan of Arc parish, and Holy Spirit parish.

We are looking forward to the State Convention, the Irish Festival and our Division Christmas Party on December 12th. Maybe we have returned to some semblance of normalcy at last!

May the magic of autumn color bring you many blessings! May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter! And may God protect you in the New Year!

-Kathy Lay, Reporter-

Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy Autumn from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division in Baltimore City.

Earlier this year we collected donations for the Maryland Food Bank. We plan to resume in-person meetings in October, details to be determined.

We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

Cecil County Division 1 is very excited to be celebrating our first five years as a division and look forward to celebrating this accomplishment when we are not encumbered by restrictions of Covid-19.



September has been a very busy month for us. We collected last minute items for the "Irish Lass" raffle basket for the state convention. While I

was attending the state board meeting, the Cecil ladies attended the Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel in Conowingo and provided baked goods for the brunch. We collected donations for our annual Boscov's fundraiser after all the Masses! Several members attended the Day of Remembrance for the Unborn at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. During the ceremony, we laid roses on the memorial to honor the unborn babies. Several of us attended the ICC Parish Picnic, Book Club, and Paint with a Twist which were all great opportunities for building friendships. The book club is currently reading *A River in the Trees* by Jacqueline O' Mahony.

October is also proving to be a very busy month as well. We completed our nominee slate for our November election. We continue raising funds to support local charities. At our

meeting, we collected items for our "Angel" basket to be raffled off at our parishes' Christmas bazaars, money for 50/50 raffle tickets and tickets for the convention baskets and donations from all Boscov's shopping passes collected thus far. We look forward to attending the convention as a trio this year!

-Christine Hild, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

Happy Fall Everyone! Your Carroll County Sister Hibernians hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We did not meet in July. In August the Division had an Afternoon Tea at the Aisling House to celebrate Sr. Cecelia's 70th Jubilee. What an honor it was for our Division to celebrate with Sr. Cecelia her many years of service to the Church and her community. She truly is one of our Division treasures. Also in August many of our Sisters attended the Lady of Knock Mass and luncheon. It was wonderful to be able to see our sister Hibernians and spend time with them while celebrating Our Lady of Knock.



September kept us busy. We had a Half-way to St. Patrick's Day bake sale in the back of St. Bartholomew's Church and a Raffle basket. The Parish Family of St. Bart's is always supportive of our fundraisers. We had a great bake sale and sold out of everything our wonderful ladies baked. We also purchased a table at St. Bartholomew's yard sale as an additional fundraiser for the Division while helping to support the Religious Ed program for St. Bartholomew's.

At our October meeting we will be collecting items for the Pregnancy Support Center in Westminster. We are looking forward to attending the State AOH/LAOH Convention at the end of the month and volunteering at the Maryland Irish Festival in November. Wishing all of our Sister Hibernians a happy and healthy fall...

Respectfully

-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Howard County, Division 1

Although autumn has arrived and our Division prepared to resume meetings after a summer hiatus, we were way-laid by the medical issues of our Sisters and family members, the death of an extended family member and work schedules. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 24 at the home of the Division President since our past meeting site is still not open.

We will adjust our meeting schedule to insure that we meet the annual meeting requirement.

We had one member attend the St. Brigid Mass in Baltimore and have at least one member attending the upcoming State Convention in Ocean City. One member has thrown her hat into the ring in an effort to continue her position within the Maryland LAOH State Board. Despite being unable to meet consistently, we continue our sash-making fundraiser. We have received several orders from the Delaware Celtic Cross Division which has been beneficial to our treasury. Given the increase in mailing and supply costs, we will be discussing the need to increase the sash cost and revising the current order sheet. We will also be focusing on our recruitment and retention efforts over the next year or two.

We pray that our Sisters, families and friends remain safe and healthy as we continue to deal the Covid-19 pandemic. May the Good Lord, his Blessed Mother, Saints Joseph, Brigid and Patrick watch over you and those dear to you!

Bail ó Dhia ort! (The blessing of God on you! – pronounced Bal oh Yee-Ah urt)

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

We attended Our Lady of Knock mass in August which was beautiful as ever. Enjoyed the mass and the celebration for Anne Arundel County's 40th Anniversary... The mass, the perfect weather and all who attended made it a wonderful celebration.

All three applicants who applied for The Sally Murphy Educational Assistance scholarship were awarded funds due to the generous donation from the St Patricks Day Celebration committee who requested that it be put towards the assistance scholarship this year. (This year only) St. Patrick is always watching over the LAOH and our works.

Some members will attend the St Ita Rosary and mass sponsored by Harford County 2 division with a crab cake dinner afterwards. We're looking forward to the State Convention at the end of October and you know we'll all have a "groovy" time at the Ice Breaker and the bonfire on the beach the night before the meetings start.



We need volunteers for the Irish Festival this year. Since we can't have our bake table LAOH still needs volunteers. We need Greeters at the front door

and for the volunteer entrance. Please contact me to let me know what day and time you can work with us.

May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold —
And at the end of all your rainbows may you find a pot of gold.

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Welcome Fall 2021! Our Division continues to meet using a hybrid way—in-person and Zoom. This is something we'll continue to promote engagement and involvement. The major discussion item at our meetings this quarter is our fundraiser—in the midst of the continued effects of the pandemic in hopes of continuing to donate to charities such as The Bernie House (TBH), St. Mary's Parish and school, and many others. We are hosting our second annual virtual auction, with intentions to return to an in person Tea next November 19th (hint, save the date!). For this auction, our sister Judy McKenna has made another beautiful quilt. Our Basket of Cheer returns this year!!



Look for more information coming out soon! We appreciate your support!

Fortunately, our church council reached out to all the ministries stating the pastor would like to have a brochure to hand out at the masses that highlights all of our active ministries in our Parish! I submitted the following along with my contact information: The motto of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) is: "FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN

CHARITY." Our Patron Saint is Saint Brigid. Today, our work is to keep, before our country and the world, the fact that the Irish and their descendants are foremost among the people of the world in Faith, in patriotism, in a sense of justice, in the spirit of self-sacrifice in their love of true liberty and peace. We donate funds, annually, to many local, state, and national charities.

God Bless and see you in OC!

-Jane Bannon, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

The ladies have been working to resume several of our previous activities. After our Mercy NICU baby shower in September, we are looking forward to a fun and exciting fall and winter! We will be putting together a tree for the Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees at the State Fair Ground in Timonium in November. If you would like to participate with decorating, please contact Patrice Bell.



We will be having our division election at our November meeting. I hope you can join us! There is no meeting in December but we will be planning a small gathering in January, like we have done in past years. I will reach out to let everyone know what we will be doing once we have a plan. If you have any feedback, please reach out to Ashley Knapik.

Warmest Wishes,

-Ashley Knapik, President-

-In Memorium-

Anne Shanahan, Baltimore County, Div. 4

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.

