



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
Pennsylvania
Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2023 Edition III

Pre Convention 2023 Edition

A Word from Maria, our President...

Greeting Ladies,

Can you believe we are just days away from our State Convention, time really does fly!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Convention, and for those of you who will not be with us, I know you will be with us in spirit.

Thank you to everyone on the Convention Planning Team and those that have supported this event through our fundraising efforts.

The definition of a Conventions states ~ a gathering of individuals to discuss a specific topic or participate in activities related to a shared interest or field. The idea of gathering together to strengthen our shared group fills me with great joy.

Let us all head to Johnstown with the Irish spirit and our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Maria

Maria Gallagher
PA State President

gather

State Things to Know...

Don't forget periodically to check our Website! ~ <http://statepalaoh.com>

The History of the LAOH ~ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH

State Board Members Letters and means to contact

The Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award winners

Bylaws ~ Newsletters ~ Photo Albums

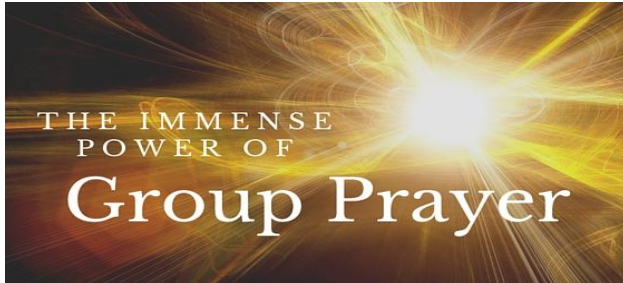
Information from Degree Teams ~ Important Dates

Fundraising from the State and Divisions

State and National Convention details available!



Also, check out our Facebook page at LAOH Pennsylvania State & Instagram page



The members of Bucks County Division 1~ MaryEllen Everett in Bristol welcomes you to join us every Tuesday at 8pm EST to say the Rosary via Zoom.

Please keep our Sisters and their families in your prayers. Also, keep those who were impacted by Hurricane Ian, those who are suffering or died in Ukraine, and all those who can use our prayers.

If you have special intentions that you would like us to

mention before we start the rosary, please email me at briana.m.curran@gmail.com.

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5420434510> and the Meeting ID: 542 043 4510.

You can also join by phone: +19294362866,5420434510#

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Brianna M. Curran ~ Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com



LAOH and our Military Connections

If you or someone in your Division served in any branch of the US Armed Forces, please forward the following information to Maura Roszyk: paLAOHmor@gmail.com.

Name, Division, County, Address, Phone number, Email, Branch, Rank, Years of Service, Dates of Service, and Combat Veteran? If yes, what war/conflict?

LAOH Blue & Gold Star Mothers of America

To build yet another network of support for the proud Blue and Gold Star Mothers, the National Committee wishes for us to collect the names and information of those proud Moms.

We ask that all Division Presidents send in a list including name, phone, email, and name and service their children serve or have served. Please forward the listing to Maura Roszyk: paLAOHmor@gmail.com



LAOH's Embracing Our Heritage Program

Please visit the National website~ www.ladiesaoh.com and the LAOH National YouTube channel for upcoming and past programs.



Ladies Just a Reminder!

If you send a Sister an email, **please do not assume that she has received it.**

If you do not get a response, please follow up with a phone call or reach out to someone else in the Division. With so many more people utilizing technology, emails are not always received, go to junk, or are missed by the receiver. Thank you!



*Pennsylvania State Convention
PA State Convention July 20th to 22nd 2023 ~ Johnstown, PA*

The Convention WEBSITE <https://www.2023johnstownconvention.com/>

Check out the Merchandise!

- *The Men & Women's Polo shirts are available by pre-order only. Sales will close April 30, 2023.*
- *Merchandise ordered through the website will be ready for pickup at the Holiday Inn - Downtown.*
- *T-Shirts and other Convention Merchandise will be available for purchase at the Convention.*
- *Due to supply chain issues, garment specifications may vary slightly from the sample shown.*

Woman's Polo \$25



Unisex T-shirt \$20



Mens Polo \$25



***The Convention Facebook page is up and running! Please "like" us at:
[2023 Pennsylvania AOH & LAOH State Convention | Johnstown PA | Facebook](#)***

Degree Ceremony

*Hosted by the Allegheny County Degree Team
The Degrees of the LAOH will be exemplified on July 22.*

Registration will begin at 11.00 a.m.

Degree Exemplification will be held at Noon.

*If you are an observer, do not forget to bring your Degree
Card for registration.*



Schedule

Our tentative Schedule is posted to the website, but here is a quick overview.

Thursday, July 20, 2023

- 9:00 AM -Pre-convention committee meetings
- 1:00- 4:00 PM -Opening Business Session of Convention
- 5:00 PM- Ice Breaker @ Cambria County War Memorial

Check it Out!

Friday, July 21, 2023

- 8:00- 9:00 AM –Credentials
- 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM – Business Session & Election (if needed)
- Free Night

Saturday, July 22, 2023

- 11:00 PM- Registration for Degree ceremony
- 12:00 PM- Exemplication of Degrees
- 4:00 PM - Mass and Installation of New Officers
- 6:00 PM – Final Banquet @ Johnstown Conference Center

SAFETY PRAYER FOR DRIVING PROTECTION

“Our Father in Heaven,

I come to You asking for assistance as I drive this vehicle today. Keep me and my fellow travelers safe on these busy and dangerous roads.

Surround us with Your protection, shield us from harm and allow our travels to proceed without hindrance. Please protect and keep us safe until we reach our destination.

In Jesus’ powerful name, I pray,

Amen”

SAIN  AGNES

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

Pennsylvania Proud!

In June, our Pennsylvania Historian, Carole Cooney-Syzdek along with Mary Earnest, Cumberland County Division Historian, presented Elizabeth Howard her certificate and check for her Level II first place winning essay in the LAOH 2023 Irish History Contest. We were honored to have awarded Elizabeth at her highschool year end award ceremony. Fingers crossed Elizabeth's success inspires more students to participate!



Left to right: Mary Earnest, Cumberland County Division Historian, Elizabeth Howard, Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Pennsylvania Irish Historian.



Sisters and Brothers across the Commonwealth gathered to commemorate the Day of the Rope, marking the 146th Anniversary of the execution of the Molly Maguires



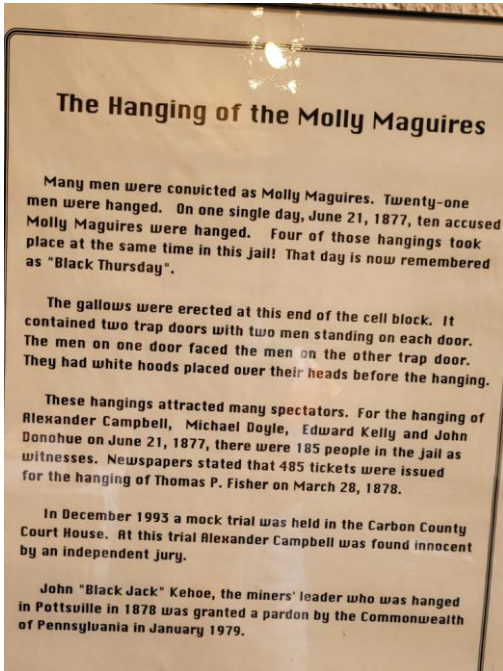
In commemoration, a Memorial Mass was celebrated under the gallows in the Old Jail Museum on Saturday, June 17th, to remember those unjustly executed. Father Ronald Minner, who led us in prayer, reminded us, "Masses like this provide us the strength to move forward, seeking goodness, even during trying times." Father was inspired to see the jail filled with so many people, "to see so many people herer to remember, people who have no other agenda than to remember and honor."

The Old Jail Museum, owned by the McBride and Dart families, along with their staff, so generously opens the jail to us each year. The AOH/LAOH of Division One Carbon County arranged the event, including a lovely luncheon afterward.

As many of us sat in this most solemn location, we all felt the presence of Alexander Campbell, John Donohue, Michael Doyle, Edward Kelly, Thomas P. Fisher, James McDonnell, and Charles Sharp, the men held in Cells 11-14. We witnessed the handprint, which proclaims their innocence.

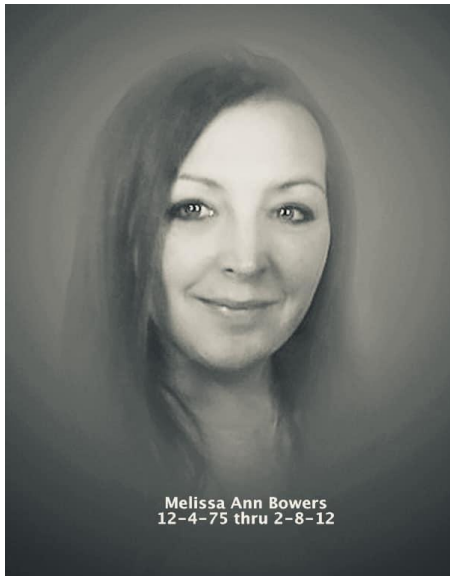
Father Minner encouraged us all to remember their names. He prayed that

this remembrance would inspire us to have the courage and tenacity to fix wrongs, to pull upon the strength of God inside of us, and work to make the world a little better, by starting at the local level.



On Tuesday, June 27th, our very own Colleen Bowers, former State President and member of Division 11, spoke at the City of Pittsburgh Council Meeting. Colleen shared the story of her beloved daughter Melissa, who she lost due to domestic abuse.

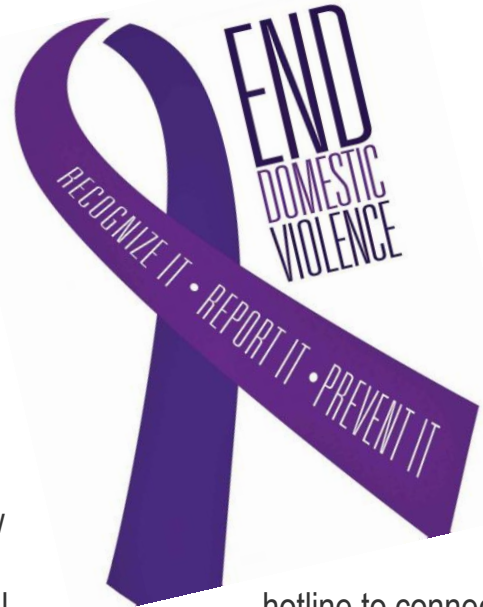
We are so proud of Colleen and her tireless campaign to make people aware of this horrible abuse and encourage people to help make it stop.



Melissa Ann Bowers
12-4-75 thru 2-8-12

Always remember...

- *NO ONE* deserves to be abused. The abuse is not your fault. You are not alone.
- Listen and believe the abused person to let them know they are not alone.
- Encourage her/him seek support through a confidential with a professional in the field.



hotline to connect

A quick note for your Publicity Chair ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

Throughout the Convention ~ please join me in posting pictures to our Facebook & Instagram pages.

We will keep those that could not join us in Johnstown as up-to-date as is possible!

Should you have any difficulties posting, please forward pictures to me at paLAOHmor@gmail.com, and I will get them posted.



County and Division Updates

Lackawanna County

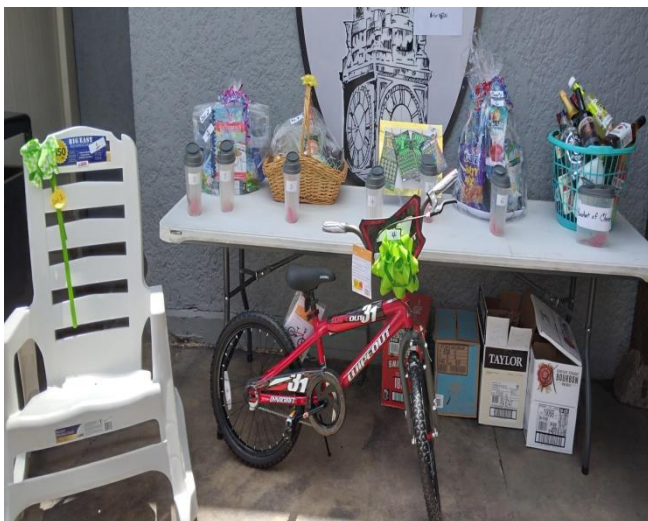
In June, LAOH and AOH Lackawanna County Board members hosted their second annual Hibernian Membership Drive. The County Board Presidents are Dorothea Crowley and Harry Smith. All Divisions participated .



The best of times are always found when Irish friends and family gather around!



Delicious food, basket raffles, 50/50 chances, door prizes and most importantly camaraderie are in abundance for this event



Thanks to everyone's time and effort we had a great turnout and we were able to welcome four new members to our organization.



Happy Summer Everyone!



Division #1 ~ Chester County

Many of our members enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day celebration sponsored by the AOH of Chester County on March 11th. There was good food, raffles, conversation, and music to share.

Our Division had its annual potluck dinner meeting to welcome the summer on June 8th.

Of course, there was much wonderful food and conversation to be had.

At this meeting, we voted to donate to three charities we work with: St. Agnes Day Room, Mom's House, and St. Mary's Shelter.

We look forward to attending the annual AOH/LAOH mass and picnic at St. Malachi's Sunday, July 16th. This gathering is always lovely at the country church built by Irish immigrants in 1840.

We are pleased that many of our members continue to work with and support local charities in varied roles. Like providing meals and staffing to the Day Room, support to Mom's House, St. Mary's, and local Food Cupboards through staffing and donations.

And, of course very proud of all the work members do through their local parishes.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Convention!



Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Delaware County

Greetings from Bridgeport, Pa!

April was a busy month for the Ladies of Notre Dame Division 2! We inducted Donna Godfrey into the Division as a new member, and we've been hard at work helping our Home raise funds for the clubhouse.

To raise money, a Zep sandwich sale was held where funds went towards a new roof. While Philadelphia is known for its hoagie sandwiches, Delaware County (just outside of Philadelphia) is known for its Zep's. Zep's are like a hoagie but only contain one kind of meat and fewer veggies than a Philly Hoagie. The sales yielded a decent amount for the renovations!

Our May meeting hailed a plethora of events in one night. We had our scholarship recipient join us for a short award ceremony where we presented him with his scholarship check. Next, we had a member of our AOH Home division join us to deliver a donation check to help renovate the building. Finally, we held a May procession prayer service at the end of our monthly meeting. Laura Smith was chosen to be our May Queen. Prayers were offered to Mother Mary as well as our patroness St. Brigid.

June was another busy month with the induction of our newest member Gianna Bender. We also had a safety talk with Upper Merion Police Officer Sue Bednar. Officer Bednar provided helpful tips regarding walking to our cars at night by ourselves with shopping bags, what to do if confronted by a thief, and the importance of walking in numbers. It was also stressed that crossbody bags are more challenging to steal than any other bags.

In June, we also brought some sad news for our chapter. One of our brothers, Michael Murray, passed away suddenly. Michael was married to our Mistress at Arms, Gail Murray, and was a retired member of Irish Thunder, our Pipes and Drums Brigade. Michael was a funny, friendly, and loving man who will be sorely missed by his immediate family and his Notre Dame family. Please keep Gail, her family, and all who knew Michael in your thoughts and prayers.

That's all for now from Bridgeport, until next time.

Sláinte!



Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

Happy Summer from LAOH Division 3-Maire Drumm, Montgomery County PA!

We have been busy with a few fun fundraising events that enabled us to donate to 5 local organizations and sponsor a scholarship to a Pope John Paul High School senior!

We recently participated in the Skippack 4th of July Parade!

It was a hot one but we all had a great time celebrating with our community!





We hope you all have a great time at the Convention and enjoy the rest of your summer!



Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol **The Little Ladies of Div 1, Bristol Pa**

In June, we celebrated fathers. We talked about St Joseph and his role in the Holy Family. How he took care of Mary and led her to Bethlehem was his first job as a Dad. We made picture frames to give to our special person, whom we celebrated on Father's Day. One of our very talented members of our LAOH made us sashes so we can proudly wear them to mass.



At our July meeting, we Celebrated "Christmas in July," 6 months until Jesus's birthday! The girls made wooden ornaments... some were themed for summer, and some chose winter. We had special helpers this month our very own "Miss Irish" of Bucks County joined the Little Ladies and was a great help along with our

always present and helpful Miss Ava Aita. The Little girls love the “bigger” girls when they come to help out.

After our craft, we had some yummy snacks and played “hot potato” by passing our pollyanna gifts to Christmas music. We had a blast!! We can’t wait for next month when we celebrate “Our Lady of Knock”!



The Ladies

At our May meeting our division welcomed eight new members!



Jenni Roxberry, Valarie Bee, Lynn Schneiber, Lin Platt, Colleen Deck, Kelley Coyne, Caitlyn Insetta, Natalie Dwornitski

At our June (6/11) meeting our Division welcomed four new members!



Paddie Riley, Lindsay Gougler, Stacy Marie, Jean Moyer

On June 25th, we participated in a local cultural event, Celtic Heritage Day in Bristol. There were lots of different vendors, live music and even some Irish Dance performances.



At our July (7/9) meeting we celebrated Christmas in July! We had lots of goodies and everyone brought a white elephant gift, there was lots of "stealing" but everyone left a winner.



This year we decided that we were going to host "Crash Events" at all the local business that helped us with our Irish Potatoes sale back in February and March to show our appreciation, these companies stocked, sold and advertised our sale and we couldn't have done it without them. So far we have visited two, Naked Brewing in May and Phinny Magees in June. We have five more events planned out through the rest of the year.





Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley

Since the last Newsletter, we are excited to announce two new Ladies became members, Welcome Jeanne Ferrucci and Sheryl O'Hurley



Additionally, we joined with Hibernians across the Commonwealth to remember the Rope Mass.



Maura Roszyk, Meloday Newhard-Kirk, Anne Bassler, Lorraine Clarke
& missing from picture ~ Adele Fagan

Wishing all attendees of the Convention a safe and successful journey



News & Updates from the State Board

Vice President ~ Kathleen Diulus

THANK YOU SO MUCH to Maria Gallagher!

Maria, the years of service and selfless dedication to the Order are admirable. PA is honored to have had you as our President. We hope you know how much you are appreciated. Thanks for the leadership and friendship!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Kathleen





Secretary ~ Carolyn Killion

Are you ready for Convention?!

If attending, ensure you have your up-to-date signed Dues Card for Admission, as we will be checking them for entry into our meetings.

Also, should you have any changes to your Division or County Boards, please let the State Secretary know so that we can have proper contact information.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

All the best, Carolyn



Treasurer ~ Patti Flaus

Since Dues Cards are an essential part of Conventions, I encourage all Treasurers to ensure that they have plenty of cards for new members or members who have used up all the spaces on their cards. These cards can be purchased on the National Website under the Supplies Tab (<https://ladiesaoh.com/national-supplies/>).

You must print off the form, fill it out, and mail it in.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat! ~Patti



Irish Historian ~ Carole Cooney Syzdek

As individuals distracted by duties and responsibilities of our everyday lives, we may sometimes overlook the heartfelt meaning of “Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians”. Please allow me to remind you.

“The primary purpose of the LAOH was to protect young Irish girls coming to the United States by assisting them to secure employment, allowing them the opportunity to connect with their own kind and dissuade them from becoming homesick and discouraged”.

“Our motto, “Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity”, also helps to promote loyalty to country & community, encourage civic responsibility, and preserve the history and traditions of the Irish people and their culture. These important goals, ideas and principles of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians have attracted Irish women of all walks of life and continue to do so.”

Have a safe trip when traveling to our State Convention and see you there!

Carole



Missions & Charity ~ Sister Kathleen Smith, RSM

Thank you for placing your trust in me as our State Missions and Charities officer. It has been a great privilege to do so for the past two years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to facilitate our membership’s on-going support of the Columban Fathers and Sisters. My admiration for the World-wide Columban Missions has swelled.

The 24 months have speedily come to an end! Transitions are like crossing a threshold—one foot in what’s grown familiar is becoming the familiar past and the other foot already stretched out toward the future. As an organization, we are not strangers to our two-year leadership cycle transitions.

As we prepare to step across the 2023 threshold, I, a Hibernian Mercy Sister whose order was founded in Dublin, Ireland, invite you to ponder a quote from our Foundress, an 18th Century Irish born woman: “Our hearts can always be centered in God, for whom alone, we go forward or stay back” (Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Dublin, Ireland, 1831).

For me, this quote gives purpose and meaning to the crossing of a new threshold! As does our motto: Faith, Unity, and Christian Charity. As we embark on a new State Board of Officers, let's renew our commitment to support them, especially during their learning curve weeks.

Being your State Mission and Charities officer afforded me the momentum to learn more about the Columban Missionaries and, more significantly, the Columban Sisters. Being a vowed religious woman of an order founded in Ireland, I naturally felt drawn to investigate where and when the Columban Sisters originated.

The first Columban -Mercy connection was that every September 29th, the Columban Sisters celebrate the Anniversary of their Foundation as a Congregation. September 29th is the date Catherine McAuley, our Mercy Foundress, was born. A second connection was that Frances Maloney, the Columban Sisters Foundress, afterward known as Sister Mary Patrick, attended general nurses training at the Sisters of Mercy's Mater Hospital in Dublin.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians' patron saint is Saint Brigid. On the feast of Saint Brigid 2022, the Columban Sisters began preparations for their 100th Anniversary as a congregation by gathering in Cahiracon, a small coastal village and townland in County Clare, Ireland, near the banks of the Shannon River. It was on the feast day of Saint Brigid in 1922, that the first group of women came together in a farmhouse in Cahiracon, beside the River Shannon in County Clare, Ireland, to begin their novitiate and training as missionary sisters.

On Saint Brigid's feast day in 2022, the Columban Sisters gathered once again at Cahiracon. Their Congregational leader, Sister Susanna Choi, declared: "Today is the beginning of the preparation of our century, and until the centenary of our Foundation Day on the 29th of September 2024, let us continue to rejoice and celebrate with grateful hearts."

In fully living their Columban Spirituality, the Columban Sisters pledge to be witnesses of God's compassion and love wherever they are.

"Touched and set on fire by God's love, which is the source of our charism, we are called and sent in a spirit of compassion and solidarity to our fast-changing world." (Columban Spirituality)

I hope as LAOH members, we, too rejoice and celebrate God's love with grateful hearts wherever we are! May we always continue to support and be inspired by the Columban Missionary Sisters as they celebrate their centenary.



~~~~~
Catholic Action - Brianna Curran

Our Motto is Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. I could not think of a better way to embrace our Motto than helping the women and children of the Women's Help Center in Johnstown.

Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. Another definition is simply "a kind act." Kindness is a meta-value that has the power to transform the world for the better and encompasses acts of bravery, compassion, decency, empathy, fairness, forgiveness, Friendship, generosity, gratitude, humility, love, loyalty, mercy, trust, respect, sympathy, understanding, and more.

Your kindness can truly make a difference in a person's life. Right now, these women and children are strangers. They will never know your name or what you have donated, but they will learn of the kindness the LAOH showed them in their most significant time of need. Whether you purchase on Amazon or at a store, whether you donate towards your Division's purchase or do it all on your own, regardless of the price, I ask you to join our initiative to help and spread kindness.



Degree Team Information

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CLADDAGH DEGREE TEAM

We are honored to be the Degree Team for the 2023 Convention!
Looking forward to another beautiful ceremony.



PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM

*The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team is looking for members to join our Team!
Please feel free to contact a member of the Membership Committee for further information*

Maureen Dougherty Brown

bmaureen51@gmail.com

Mary Anne Dooley

biged3030@aol.com

Ellen McCrane

e.mcrane@comcast.net

Marie Nealis

nealipa39@gmail.com

Colleen Riccardo

gram1940@gmail.com



***The Blessing of God on you ~ Bail ó Dhia ort
Let's us remember the Souls of the recently departed
Eternal rest grant unto our Dearly Departed Sisters***



***Linda Nevedomsky of Divison 87
Margaret (Marge) White of Division 87***



Compassionate and Gracious God, we come to you today to thank you for giving us a chance to live with our loved ones who recently left this world to come into your presence. Lord God Almighty, we know that they were not perfect, but they did love you with all their heart and truly repented for their sins. May they find love and peace in your presence. Do not let our loved one to be parted from you, let your faithful servant enjoy your glory forever. In Jesus' powerful name, I believe and pray. Amen.



***The Power of Prayer is so very mighty therefore, we ask
you to include the following Special people in yours.***



Nancy Cullen of Division 39~ grandson, Ronan as he faces another surgery.



Pat Obara-Coles of Bristol Division One as she deals with medical issues.



Ellen McCrane, PA Past State President, Maria Gallagher, current PA State President, PA State Vice President Kathleen Diulus, and all of our Sisters who are battling Breast Cancer or are survivors. St. Peregrine and St. Agatha, pray for them.



Kathleen Varady's grandson, as he deals with several obstacles thrown in his life path.



Our newly elected National Secretary Sandy Swift's husband Matt, as he deals with medical issues.



Sammi Smith & MaryEllen O'Donnell of Division One~ Lehigh Valley ~ as they face medical issues.



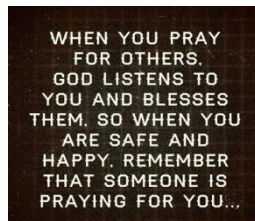
We pray for peace and civility in our home country, America and our motherland, Ireland.



Everyone impacted by the horrific situation in the Ukraine.



A special prayer for everyone's Special Intentions.



Additionally, we ask for prayers of strength and courage to all of those ailing & their caregivers

Also, to all the Sisters, Priests, and others without loved ones to pray for their soul.

And, a prayer for us all as each one of us faces our daily struggles, fears, and pains.



Be safe ~ BÍ curamach

Lastly...Please send in your Good News, Committee Updates,

or Prayer Requests so together,

we can celebrate & support each other.

Please email them to Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at paLAOHmor@gmail.com

To be sure, I received ~ please message me if I do not send you a RECEIVED response.



A WOMAN'S PRAYER ~ SR. PEGGY FLAHERTY, CDP

*Make us, O God, spirit-filled women...women of prayer...women of vitality...women of vision..
women of courage...risk-taking women.*

*Fill us with your love...a love, which affirms...a love, which calls forth...a love, which challenges...a love, which
frees.*

*Grant us your gift of Godliness... a reverence for you. Instill in our hearts the spirit of holy Joy...the joy that
sanctifies...the joy that gives...the joy of one who loves... the joy that imparts to others the spirit born of self-
control.*

*Make us Peace-seeking women...instruments of your peace...directed by your Wisdom,
bridge builders...working with others for justice to bring about true peace.*

*Give us Patience...a strong patience which enables us to trust and to keep heart in the face of disappointments,
frustrations, and failures.*

*Plant deep within our attitudes your kindness...make us women who are open and friendly...women of
hospitality...women who image our people friendly God. Impart to us your spirit of Goodness...Make us women
who believe in the good of the other...who speak the good to each other and about each other...who do good for one
another...Bestow on us your gift of knowledge that we may know you who are the source of all good.*

Root us in your Fidelity...a fidelity that keeps us true to you...walking in integrity in your presence...

Mold us into faithful women...women who are true to ourselves...true to others... true to life and all creation.

Form us into women who follow your Counsel in all things, who uphold true values and the rights of all people.

Make us, O God, Spirit filled Irish women, trusting you and one another as we move into this 21st Century.

Our Late Pennsylvania State Chaplain, Sister Peggy Flaherty, also Dorothy Weldon's sister, wrote this
beautiful & inspirational prayer.

Sister Peggy was a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, PA.
She was the youngest member of the Order to become a Principal of St. Peter and Paul School in Beaver
County, PA until her death.

Sister was also the Chaplain of the LAOH, Allegheny County and loved by all.

She was elected State Chair of Catholic Action before her untimely death and served us well.

She was truly loved by everyone, always available to assist and a genuine Irish Catholic Woman as her
Father, Martin Flaherty was born in County Galway, Ireland, and Mother, Mary McElligott Flaherty, born in
County Kerry, Ireland.