



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1894

Office of the National President
Marilyn Madigan

July 5, 2023

Sisters,

I hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July with their family and friends During this time as we celebrate our Country's Independence let us reflect on these quotes: ***“May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right”*** Peter Marshall and ***“As members of civil society, let us continue to uphold the values of freedom, responsibility, fraternity and solidarity. And as Christians, let us always make charity, faith and hope the basis of our lives and our actions.”*** Pope Francis
The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians throughout our history have cherished our freedom as Americans and as a Catholic organization have demonstrated our faith in action. As a Catholic Organization we should be educated in Social Justice Issues, over the past couple of years the PEC Committee have been working very hard to educate our members on these important issues. Although the LAOH is not a political organization, we should to listen to the words of Pope Francis ***“None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice”*** So after much discernment and discussion with the Committee, I have decided to change the name of the Committee to Catholic Social Justice Education.

As Irish Americans who cherish our freedoms and hope to see our beloved Ireland to be reunited and a free society, I am requesting our members to say this prayer for Irish Unity written by our Sister from Virginia Ellen Marie Hess.

Prayer for Irish Unity

Heavenly Father, as we gather here today, Ireland's exiled children in America, we pray for Irish Unity. Though Ireland, the land of saints and scholars, has suffered 800 years of oppression her people have endured because of their faith and the strength of their spirit. We celebrate the natural beauty of our homeland from the rolling hills of Connemara to the rugged Cliffs of Moher to the streets of Dublin and we pray that this beauty will one day be a symbol of our unity.

We ask that you bless the efforts of those who seek to unite Ireland. Strengthen the resolve of those who fight for justice and open the hearts and minds of those who would impede it. Through your grace and mercy may Ireland be transformed into a land of peace, justice and equality, a nation once again.

We ask this through our savior Jesus Christ. Amen