

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

The Best of Us

When we are surrounded by so many obstacles, sometimes we don't see our true value. It is not our size that defines us. It is what we do when we are faced with the impossible. We are bigger than we know.

This is the Best of Us.

This past summer 44 LAOH Delegates across the state of Maryland participated in our State Convention located in Historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. People who made a positive impact in America set the theme and costume-clad party dwellers danced to the music of the 60's and 70's. To think after all these years Betsy Ross would be found dancing the Electric Slide... National LAOH President, Marilyn Madigan, drove down from Ohio and was joined by National LAOH Website Chair, Brianna Curran. I cannot wait to see what the 2025 State Convention has in store for us.

Over the next two years the divisions will focus on membership and fundraisers. This will not be an easy task as we struggle with membership growth and creative ways to raise funds. I have also asked divisions to think outside the box when holding monthly meetings; invite a guest speaker, hold your meeting at a restaurant, perhaps a show or a trip in its place. Get to know your sisters. Divisions are only required to meet 8 months in the calendar year. I encourage divisions to make use of those extra two meetings doing something fun.

-Kathy Norris-

Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)

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 58 No. 4 Oct., Nov., Dec., 2023

Calendar

November

Nov. 10-12: Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium Fairgrounds, Sunday Mass at 10:30 AM, \$

Nov. 18: Genealogy Event, Seelos Hall, St. John Neumann Church, 5-9 PM, Anne Arundel 1, Irish Dinner, Raffles, Silent Auction, 50/50, Basket of Cheer, \$45pp

Nov. 24-26: Festival of Trees, Timonium Fairgrounds, \$

December

Dec. 2: State Board Meeting, 10 AM, via ZOOM

Dec. 3: LAOH Christmas Party, Bluestone, Timonium, 11:30 AM, \$50

Cultural Corner

THE BEE STING by Paul Murray

THE WREN, THE WREN by Anne Enright

RETURN LIGHT:THIRTY YEARS ON THE ISLAND OF SKELLIG MICHAEL by Robert L. Harris



NO STRANGERS HERE by Carlene O'Connor

Book club selection for October 24

Contact Susan Legg at susan.legg@icloud.com

-Joanna Cox

Gatherings

Jesuit Father John Sullivan, S.J. (1861-1933) never left Ireland. And he never suffered martyrdom or did anything that made his life stand out from others. But John's daily choices are more uncommon in the 21st century. He chose two elements: night prayer and regular visits to the sick. This marked his gradual discipleship in his own frenetic world.

I traveled to Ireland in February 2023. I learned about a healing Mass that was offered while I was there to honor Blessed John Sullivan at the Jesuit Church of St. Francis Xavier Church on Gardiner Street, Dublin. When I arrived, I asked Jesuit scholastics (seminarians), brothers, and priests, what was so special about this man? A common response was his gradual growth into sanctity: from a wealthy Anglican family to a Catholic vowed religious, from a successful life as a barrister to a life dedicated to teaching adolescents.

From his reputation as the best-dressed man in Dublin during the day to wearing a threadbare habit, John educated teenagers and at night bicycled around Dublin City to visit the sick and dying. The sicker a person was, the longer he remained with them. Dubliners realized this humble man was a saint even before he died. They noticed him at prayer all hours of the night and beseeched his intercession, calling upon him to pray for healing. Many have claimed miraculous healings from his prayers. This continued after his death.

I learned what made John's Jesuit life so fruitful: his sanctity grew slowly and progressed with night prayer and daily works of mercy. Second, I realize the computer and my frenetic life derails my spiritual growth. By running from duty to duty, I lose my attention to God and direct service to the poor or sick. With the current vocation crisis, I have no choice but to handle more pastoral, academic, and mundane duties. John Sullivan's choices remind me the options that matter most: night prayer away from the computer and more contact with the sick and the poor. So, try putting away your iPads and iPhones. Pray at night and remember to have direct contact with the sick and poor.

Blessed John Sullivan, S.J., pray for us!



Father Frain, SJ, LAOH State Chaplain

Harford County, Division 2

Our division had a busy summer. In June our fundraising trip to see Moses at Sight and Sound was a success for our charities. After our June meeting our sisters drafted recommendations for the State Convention Resolutions Committee. Four of our division sisters attended the LAOH State Convention in August. Our division President, Mary Asaki, gave a video presentation of her and Jean Martin's visit to the cities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico as a part of the LAOH Social Justice

Committee's Border Experience. Members attended the state Lady of Knock mass on August 20. Thelma Graziano came to our September 19 meeting to help plan for our Rosary Night, which will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 25 at St. Mark in the chapel.



Our trip to see Sight and Sound's "The Miracle of Christmas" will be on Wednesday, December 6. The bus will leave the White Marsh Park and Ride at 12 noon. After the show there will be a stop at Shady Maple for food. The cost is \$140 for adults and \$110 for children 12 and under. The proceeds go to support our charities. Contact Mary Beth Lull at 443-528-1673 for more information.

Our annual St Ita mass and crab feast will be in January, 2024. Sadly, in July we mourned the passing of our sister Pat Brown and, recently, Kitty Rutkowski. May they rest in peace.

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Howard County, Division 1

Members have returned from our summer break not only enjoying the change of seasons but the opportunity for change as well. We were disappointed that our joint fundraiser at St. John's Parish Yard Sale planned for September 29 was postponed due to a scheduling conflict. We suspect the Irish Saints interceded since it poured the entire day! We're praying for sunny skies for the new date in early summer 2024.

In October we welcomed and installed a new member and look forward to installing another soon. We are sponsoring a Pajama Collection for Sarah's House at all Masses at St. John the Evangelist, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, during the weekend of October 21-22. We pray for AOH Brothers and LAOH Sisters to be remembered at the Memorial Mass, look forward to the craic of the Maryland Irish Festival and sharing Christmas cheer with our Maryland Sisters at the MD LAOH Holiday Party.

We will close 2023 with Division elections and planning for 2024.

May your troubles be less, your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door.

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy autumn from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division of Baltimore City!

We support Marian House, a holistic, healing community for women and their children who are in need of housing and support services. We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7PM, at Squire's restaurant. We invite you to join us in helping women in need in the City of Baltimore and celebrating our Irish history and culture. .

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

The Cecil LAOH returned from summer break with our division Lady of Knock Mass and pot luck on August 26th. I attended our convention in Gettysburg and portrayed Betsy Ross at the Ice Breaker. One of our newer members, Nancy Sheehan-Becker also attended and helped with the election committee. Some of our members attended the St. Pat's Chapel Mass on September 9th, providing refreshments and on September 30th, the Service for the Unborn at Immaculate Conception.

Our fall Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser is in full swing; we collect donations from friends and parishioners. We've collected items for two gardening themed raffle baskets to donate to the Christmas bazaars to help our parishes.

We initiated Marian Whitlock on October 4th. She lived in Ireland until she was 13, then moved to Canada and later to the USA. She has already volunteered to be the SMEAP Appointee for the Maryland LAOH! On October 1, we had a membership booth at the Knights of Columbus Octoberfest Parish celebration at Immaculate Conception where we handed out four LAOH member applications to women who expressed serious interest

We also helped the Knights by providing soft pretzels, baking all the desserts, serving, decorating, setting and cleaning up. Next week we will set up our membership table at the North East Library from 10-2 during their Genealogy Symposium. Our book club discussed "The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom and Forever by Peter Hamill will be the topic. -



-Christine Hild, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

Six members of Division 14 attended the Maryland LAOH State Convention at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on August 11-13. Two of our ladies (Denny Mullin and Katie McCune) created a basket that was raffled off at the Banquet on Saturday evening. All of the activities were entertaining, especially the costume contest.

Father Frain asked the LAOH to donate an article for the fundraiser for the Loyola School. Again Denny Mullin and Katie McCune made a basket that was one of the silent auction articles.

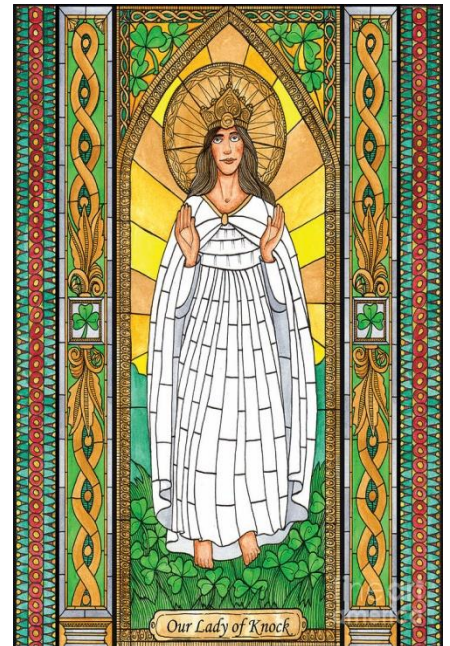
Our Lady of Knock Mass was held on August 20 at St. Ignatius. Several of our members attended and supported some of the other divisions by purchasing articles for sale.

Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees will be held at the Timonium Fairgrounds on November 24, 25, and 26. Some of our members decorating the tree for this year include Patrice Bell, Denny Mullin, and Lisa Hackett.

-Eileen Edwards, President-

Worcester County, Division 1

We were very relaxed here at the beach. Swimming and a picnic was held at Ann Cottingham's house in July. Our special day was the Our Lady of Knock Mass in August. There was a very good showing of 18 sisters. Father Martin had a beautiful homily and our ladies did themselves proud singing Lady of Knock.



In September an election of new officers was presided by Kathleen Norris. We are looking forward to our fundraiser on October 18th at the parish hall. All are welcome.

- Ann Cottingham, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

Tis that time of year again when everything starts to get busy. What a summer it was! Many of our members attended the State Convention. They enjoyed the Ice Breaker. Many were

dressed as the Nuns from the Battlefield and we even had Eleanor Roosevelt in our group. It was a wonderful convention and we were so happy to have our Chaplain Emeritus Fr. Roach say Mass. We want to congratulate our Division Sisters, Carole lafrate for being elected to the Catholic Action Office and Kelly Parks for being elected to the Missions and Charities Office on the State Board. We also look forward to working with all our newly elected State Board Officers.

September found us starting up our monthly meetings again. We planned our Bake Sale at St. Bartholomew's for October 14th and 15th. We also had a motion made and passed to purchase a new Mass Kit for St Bartholomew's Church.



In October our members were invited to help Sr. Eileen from the Aisling House celebrate her 50th Jubilee. Some attended the Wednesday celebration and some of us attended the Saturday celebration. We are very

blessed by having the Sisters of the Aisling house support us and do our end of year Retreat. Congratulations to Sr. Eileen for 50 years of service to your community.

We are looking forward to working the Maryland Irish Festival again this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings, Ladies.

As we move into fall, we hope all had a great summer. Some of us are planning to join Harford County 2's bus trip to Sight and Sound for the Christmas program. We are looking forward to having a wonderful time with all those on the bus and, of course, looking forward to the show.

We continue to look for members. We are unable to have a member mass at St. John the Evangelist at this time. If you have ideas you would like to share with us for attracting new members, please let Pat know.

The Gift Card Fund Raiser will end with a drawing at our LAOH Christmas party. Hurry, if you want a chance to win the gift cards. The chances are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six chances.

Please contact Pat Zaccari at 14100 Blenheim Rd, N Phoenix, MD 21131 or vangoghatphoenix@aol.com to get in on the fun.

We had to cancel the baby shower due to little interest.

Please remember our sisters in need of prayers. Better yet, call a sister or send a card.

All of you are in our prayers. Have a great fall

-Mary Helene Miller- Reporter

Harford County, Division 1

Our division is always well represented at LAOH events. We had nine members attend the State Convention and several observed the feast of Lady of Knock at the LAOH Mass at St. Ignatius. Congratulations to the new State Officers and to our Emily Jester as she assumes the role of State Membership Chair.

September found us resuming business meetings and catching up on our summer activities. Through our ladies' generosity, Chris Brown, our Catholic Action officer, was able to deliver much needed food and baby items to the Outreach Center at St. Marks.

In an effort to raise awareness of the LAOH and to supplement our treasury, we participated in St. Mark's Oktoberfest. We had a great time negotiating prices on our "white elephant" items and handing out membership information. Unsold items were donated to a local thrift shop.

A nominating committee consisting of Beth Lund, Eileen Verch, and Pat Hunter was appointed. Elections will occur at the November meeting. At that time we will disperse funds to our selected charities. We were so happy to learn that one of our favorite charities, Boy Scout Troop 4513 for challenged boys, has reorganized and currently has twelve scouts.



We have several fundraisers in the mix. Details coming soon...

*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, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Happy Fall! We are actively planning our Annual FUNdraiser-we hope you will join us. Would you like to learn how to research your Family Heritage online? The Anne Arundel County Ladies invite you to join our Annual Fundraiser, Saturday, November 18, 2023, 5:00-9:00PM at St. John Neumann's Seelos Hall. Festivities will include an interactive genealogy workshop, guided by our own Louise McDonald, National Genealogist for Clan Donald USA and a Traditional Irish Dinner.

In addition, we will hold a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and a Basket of Cheer. Reservations must be made in advance and are limited to 100 attendees. Tickets are \$45pp. Venmo payments may be made to @LAOHAACo-Bannon or checks made out to LAOHAACo and mailed to Dee McCarthy, 26 Brewer Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401. Please contact Dee McCarthy (443-995-5534) or Jane Bannon (410-507-1826) with any questions.

Proceeds from the evening are donated to various national and local charities including St. Vincent de Paul Society, Birthright, The Bernie House and the Columban Fathers and Sisters Missions.

-Jane Bannon, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

Michele and I attended the convention that started out with a great ice breaker where lots of LAOH and AOH members dressed in fantastic costumes. Congratulations to our new state board. We attended Our Lady of Knock mass which was beautiful as always and we really enjoyed catching up with our sisters.

We have two new prospective members thanks to the Fruits of Labor event at Charlestown. We hope to obligate them at our October meeting.

The winner of our Tailgate Party raffle was Bonnie Lomonico from our division. She missed the meeting when we pulled her name since she was cleaning up from the water pipe break in the floor above her. She was so excited to win even though she's never been to a Tailgate party, so we'll have to help her get the party started.

We are mourning the loss of Elizabeth O'Connor, such a dear.

*Like the gold of the sun, like the light of the day,
May the luck of the Irish shine bright on your way.*

-Maureen Shettle, President-



Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program

Scholarship time is right around the corner. The Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program awards \$1,500 annually through the Maryland State Board. Any active Maryland LAOH member, her children, grandchildren, brother, sister, niece, or nephew is eligible for assistance.

Applications are available on January 1st and must be postmarked on or before **March 15th**. Candidates must have at least a C average and fulfill application requirements. The award applies to all levels of education, including grade school, high school, college, graduate school, etc.

For further information, please contact Marian Whitlock at MarylandLAOH@gmail.com or you may download the [application form](#) and mail it along with the required documents to:

Educational Assistance Scholarship

Chair Marian Whitlock

Sarah Murphy Education Assistance Program

4323 Telegraph Rd
Elkton, MD 21921

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.



-In Memorium-

**Elizabeth O'Connor, Baltimore County,
Division 1**

**Pat Brown, Harford County, Division 2
Kitty Rutkowski, Harford County, Division 2**