



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2024 Edition II

St. Brigid Special Edition

As this Edition is dedicated to St. Brigid let's recap some more stories about her

As many of you know, Saint Brigid is known as 'Mary of the Gael' and was born to a Christian slave mother and a pagan chief father.

- St. Brigid lived her whole life with deep Christian characteristics, mainly for the care and encouragement of the poor. She often gave away items that belonged to her father, enraging him. Legend states her response to him when he spoke with her was merely, "Christ dwells in every creature."

- At one point, Brigid's father was so angry with her for giving his items away, including a sword to a leper, that he attempted to give her to the King. The Christian King understood her actions and responded to her father, "Her merit before God is greater than ours." The words of the King forced Brigid's father to realize her faith and generosity were of a different sphere than others, and he granted her freedom to live her life as she pleased.

- There are several spellings of Brigid and many names to know of her: Brig, Brighid, Brigit, Bride, Bride of the Isles, Bridget of Ireland, Brigid of Kildare, Mary of the Gaels.

- St Brigid's name was essentially only familiar to those who spoke Irish, the English-speaking world knew virtually nothing of her. When her

name was said, amongst the non-Irish, it was common to confuse her with the Swedish woman.

- Once granted her freedom by her father, Brigid became a nun and a formal disciple of St. Patrick.
- She established several monasteries, including a significant center of religion and learning in Kildare.
- Initially, the convent was located at the foot of Croghan Hill. Then, at some time, Brigid decided to move the convent to Druin Criadh, where she erected her famous Convent of Cill Dara under a large oak tree, translated as "the church of the oak." Today, one can find Kildare Cathedral standing there. Throughout her adult life, she helped in founding other communities of nuns.
- Her community became a double abbey for monks and nuns, with the abbess ranking above the abbot. Additionally, she built a school of art that focused on metalwork and illumination.
- Before her death, Brigid was the Mother Abbess of thirteen thousand nuns.
- Brigid was buried in Kildare Cathedral. Around the year 878, Scandinavian raids forced the Church to move the relics of St. Brigid to Downpatrick, where they were interred in the tombs of St. Patrick and St. Columba.
- Her shrine in Faughart is still hugely popular with pilgrims who leave votive offerings by the well and on sacred rocks.
- Her shrine in Faughart (once the site of a significant monastery) is popular with pilgrims who leave votive offerings by the well and on sacred rocks, initially used for pagan worship.
- Her name translates as 'Fiery Arrow.'
- Reputedly the only female bishop there has ever been!



- One of Brigid's most genuinely profound legends is the story of Dara, the blind nun. The nun requested Brigid, for the prayers of vision restoration. After the miracle happened, Dara realized that the clarity of sight blurred God in the eye of the soul, after which she asked Brigid to return her to the beauty of darkness.
- The St. Brigid is the patron saint of babies, blacksmiths, boatmen, cattle farmers, children whose parents are not married, children whose mothers are mistreated by the children's fathers, Clan Douglas, dairymaids, dairy workers, fugitives, Ireland, Leinster, mariners, midwives, milkmaids, nuns, poets, the poor, poultry farmers, poultry raisers, printing presses, sailors, scholars, travelers, and watermen.
- St. Brigid was a master ale brewer, she turned bathwater into beer and several of her miracles are associated with beer and red ale. Believe it or not, beer was considered most sanitary during St. Brigid's time and even more nutritious than water. In one story, a group of lepers asked St. Brigid to help them. She saw a barrel of bathwater, blessed it, and low and behold, it turned into ale! She did this once for a group of visiting priests, too. It is reported that during Easter, she took one barrel of beer from her convent to supply beer to eighteen local churches. Another report is that St Brigid wrote a poem stating she would "like to give a lake of beer to God" and "love the heavenly host to be tipping there for all eternity."
- Due to her generous spirit, Brigid often assisted the hungry and poor with miracles related to feeding the hungry. Most of her food miracles included dairy products such as butter and milk.
- The Bethu Brigte talks of St. Brigid's 46 miracles, which include healings as well as making food or domestic animals appear that she would then give to those in need.
- In artwork, St. Brigid is often pictured holding a cross, a burning flame, and a book or manuscript. The manuscript represents her great learning and wisdom. The flame refers to the name Brigid, which means "fiery arrow."
- The cross that she holds is commonly called St. Brigid's Cross and was first made, according to tradition, by the saint herself. It is said that as a pagan chieftain lay dying, he requested that St. Brigid visit him. By the time St. Brigid had arrived, the chieftain was almost in despair. Quietly, St. Brigid gathered some rushes and skillfully wove them together as a cross. When asked to explain what she was doing, St. Brigid replied, "This is a cross, which I make in honor of the Virgin's son, who died for us upon a cross of wood." She then spoke so convincingly about Christ and His saving death on the cross that the dying man immediately asked to be baptized and died a Christian.
- Some legends assert that Brigid invented keening. This belief came from the legends around fairies, whose cries echo through the night during times of grief. Thus, a mourning period would be observed, followed by a sumptuous feast of joy.
- Ireland now has a new public holiday for St Brigid's Day, which officially started on February 1, 2023.




State Things to Know... Our Website

<http://statepalaoh.com>

Have you been on the website lately, come see all the new and helpful additions.


We now have tabs that will directly take you to discover:

 **The Board** ~ State Board Members Letters and means to contact the Ladies

 **Divisions, find one near you or discover one to reach out and do an activity with**

 **News & Links** ~ State Newsletters, National Website, PA and National AOH Website

 **Juniors**

 **Members Only Page** ~ Reach out to your Division President or to our Webmaster for the special Members Only Password. In this section, you will find our Bylaws, the Official National Constitution, and our Official Ritual Guide

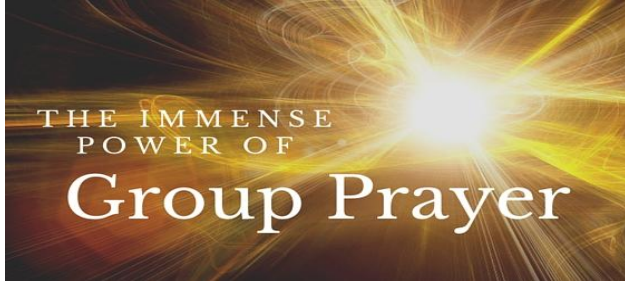
 **Degree Teams** ~ Contacts for Philadelphia and Pittsburgh teams

 **Calendar** ~ send in what's up with your Division! Also under this tab is a great write up of the





The History of the LAOH ~ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH
Media ~ Check out pictures from State events as well as events around the Commonwealth.
 Be sure to send in some from your Division
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 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 negative issues, those who are suffering medical issues, 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 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!



“Getting to Know You”

In the spirit of St. Brigid, the Newsletter Team chose a brave Sister who works to make the world a better place, but is filled with a mosy playful spirit!

Please enjoy learning a little more about this month's featured member Colleen Bowers!



What Division do you belong to? *Allegheny County. Division 11*

Growing up, Where are you originally from, and who did you live with -Tell us about your parents. Do you have siblings? *I was born Spokane, Washington Fairchild Air Force Base. Both my parents are American Irish, mother a Finnerty maiden name Milligan I won't give you all the Irish surnames in my ancestral background because they are all are Irish lol!*

Your Family, Tell us about your family now-Are you married, do you have children ~ details!!! *I am married almost 50 years this June. I had two children. My son lives in Singapore and my daughter was murdered through domestic violence. I have 4 grandchildren 27, 18, twins 9 yrs old*

Did you attend university? If yes, where ~ *I have earned 60 credits towards a Business Management degree, but did not finish due to working and raising my children.*

Do you/did you work outside of your home, what do/did you do ~

I have a very diversified background. I spent seven years as an AT&T Overseas Operator & CWA Union Steward. I was a General Manager for Pizza Hut and a Trainer for 12 years, managing 20 employees. I was the first off-post housing Mayor for the Army at Ft Drum, NY; my husband was in the Army then. I was a supervisor for the Home Shopping Network for Remington Products and a Trainer for Southern Foods in three states. I am in IT for Amazon for their Inventory, procurement, computer support, etc. departments. I have been on the St Patrick's Day Parade committee for about 30 years. My daughter and I have been designing our sponsor buttons for 24 years.

Was your career what you dreamed of? If not, what was your secret job dream?

Technically, I originally wanted to be a Nurse and join the Air Force, but my father talked me out of it, and from there, whatever I put my mind to, I was successful.

Do/Did you participate/volunteer in other charities, at church, community?

At church, I was part of the May Crowning in my youth, Choir, etc. Ensuring my family went through obtaining their sacraments as a good Catholic~ I taught CCD in earlier years. I also participated in fundraising events for my local parish. Additionally, I have supported the Pittsburgh Ireland Institute in many ways. And, of course, like all good Irish, help with food banks!

My favorite color: *Blue/Green*

My favorite holiday: *Christmas*

Fun Fact about oneself: *I am all about enjoying life and providing the positiveness of life.*

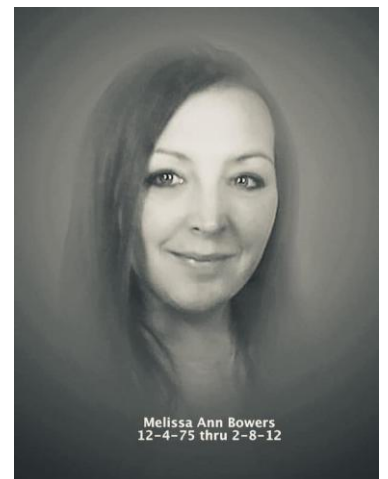
My favorite place I have visited: *Ireland, Singapore*

Where would you still like to visit? *Australia, Singapore*

Who would you like to meet, and why: *No one in particular*

What makes you happy, and what can quickly make you cry?

Happy ~promoting Domestic Violence Awareness, but it can also make me cry because of the brutal murder of my daughter, who I no longer have with me here on Earth.



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

Why did you want to become a member of the LAOH?

Initially, my family was members. However, I fell in love with our Order's purpose and motto. It became a part of my pride and my heart to be a part of this incredible and noble Order.



When did you join and have you held any positions?

I joined in 1992. I have served in many positions from Division, County, and State, culminating in PA State President; I also was a National Officer for six years, concluding as National Irish Historian, until I resigned from that level due to changes that were at the time disturbing to me. I have brought my faith and skills to my state, County, & Division while pouring my time into Domestic Violence Advocacy to promote its message and awareness to all Government entities.

What has been your favorite experience or memory as a member of the LAOH?

I will just say remember when lol! I encourage all to go to you state/national Conventions.

If you could offer your Sisters of the LAOH one piece of advice or inspiration, what would it be?

- *Advice ~ be active, and learn your Constitution and rituals. These documents rule how your Order moves forward; sometimes changes are good, but sometimes not. So, in the end, educate yourself, for you are part of our Order, and everyone can make a difference.*
- *Inspirational: please try to receive your Degree. The ceremony is one of the most moving pieces of being a member to help you become a well-rounded person and member.*



Thank You Colleen!

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

Pennsylvania Proud!

On Sunday, February 5th many Sisters across the Philadelphia and surrounding region attended a St. Brigid's Tea hosted by the Irish American Business Chamber and Network at the Commodore Barry Center.



The PA LAOH State Board was one of several presenting partners and several were in attendance.



The Tea was beautifully and deliciously prepared by Tea with Grace, if you live in the area, check them out! The Tea included a special guest of Consul General of Ireland New York, Ms. Helena Nolan. Ms. Nolan cheered the to-capacity crowd to "Be more Brigid!" She reminded everyone that Brigid was a religious woman who encouraged empowerment and success, encouraging and inspiring leaders and creativity. Ms. Nolan concluded her words by promoting that we all "Walk in the footsteps of St. Brigid."

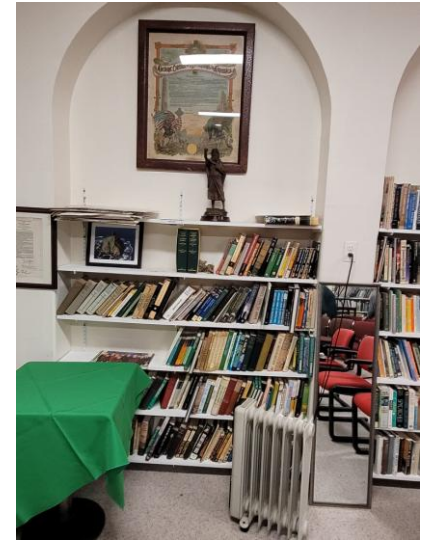


In our ballroom, a lovely informational display of inspirational Irish and Irish American women was displayed. Many jotted down a few names to research these women further.



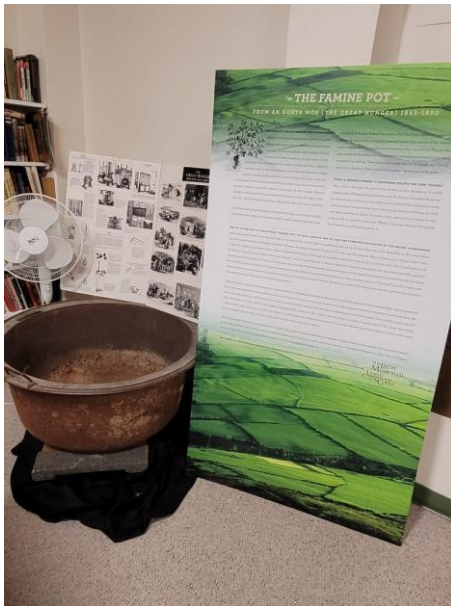
We were invited to tour the library of Commodore Barry, which amazed all who visited. The books and artifacts brought tears to our eyes and wowed us at the same time. The variety of books and magazines covered many topics, as well

as an LAOH charter and historical artifacts, including a newspaper that told the story of Grace Plunket rushing into a jewelry store just before close to purchase her wedding ring.



The Famine Pot was among the most stirring objects for many of us to see and touch. "The humble famine pots' sole purpose was to feed the starving population in the packed workhouses and in temporary soup kitchens that had been set up around the country." as the famine progressed, other people, ". . . both Catholic and Protestant" got involved in the provision of relief, however, not all for positive purposes

. Pots came from several different sources. The Quakers from Ireland, England, and the US donated pots. The Philadelphia Irish Famine Relief Committee and the Philadelphia Society of Friends (Quakers), led by Thomas Cope, funneled relief supplies from all over the United States to Ireland. "After the famine, little value was attached to these pots, many of them were used by farmers to feed animals, hold grain, or for other farming needs. They have been used as garden planters and ornamental pieces. However, in recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in these once vital objects and many have been restored and given the due respect and honor they rightfully deserve."



A few more pictures from the tea



County and Division Updates

Allegheny County

On February 12 we celebrated our annual St. Brigid Mass and Breakfast.



*Jean O'Malley and Rose Brailsford were given pins for their 75 & 50 years of service to the order.
Congratulations to Jean O'Malley of Division 21 for 75 years of service to the LAOH!
Congratulations to Rose Brailsford of Division 7 for 50 years of service to the LAOH!
Well wishes to this year's St. Brigid Court Recipient is Liz Pegnetter of Division 32.*



Philadelphia County




Division #2 ~ St. Columcille ~ Berks County

It was a wonderful Mass celebrating St. Brigid and afterwards we enjoyed Guinness Beef Stew and Irish soda bread after Mass for dinner!



Division #4 ~ Trinity ~ Delaware County



Ladies Ancient Order of
Hibernians'
Mass in Honor of

St. Brigid
February 3, 2024
Notre Dame de Lourdes Church
Swarthmore, PA



Division #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia County

Our Division celebrated with the County



Division #5 ~ Tara of the Hill ~ Lackwanna County

We celebrated the feast of St. Brigid by attending, then enjoyed each other's company for dinner at the Irish Rover.



Divison #1 ~ St. Brendan ~ Berks County

Together we celebrated the feast of St. Brigid at Sacred Heart Chapel, Alvernia.



Those attending include: Mary Pearsall, Peg Devine, Bryn Weckel, Bonnie Collins, Rita Wise, celebrant Rev. Ronald Bowman, Maryanne Welch, and Merilyn Donaldson



Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

The Ladies honored St. Brigid at our monthly meeting by saying prayers, displaying snowdrop flowers, and sharing oatcakes and scones. A few of the ladies were able to attend Mass together to further celebrate her feast day.



L-R Jo-Ellen Roberts, Dot Shrader, Eileen Hughes, Kathy Kelly, Pat Mestichelli



We also had the opportunity to help AOH Division 4 to roll Irish Potatoes for their annual fundraiser. We are now looking forward to St. Patrick's Day and parade season!

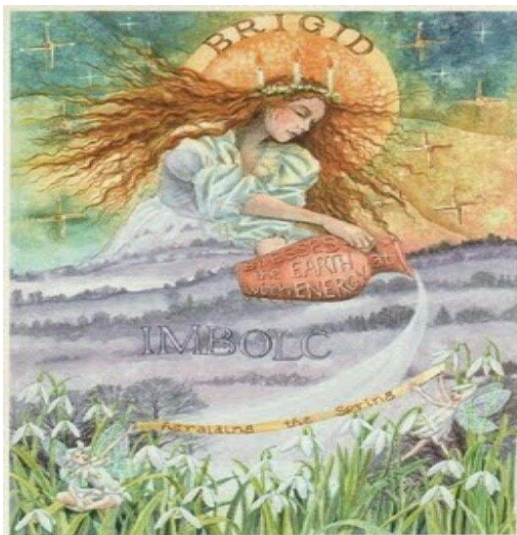


Front L-R Susan DeMedio, Kathy Coughlin, Kelly Coughlin, Nanci Daneker
Back L-R Jayme Gonzalez, Jo-Ellen Roberts, Linda Guzzardo, Kathy Kelly, Eileen Hughes, Tina Marcinek



Division #1 ~ Chester

We celebrated St. Brigid's feast day by holding a tea and collecting nonperishables for the St. Agnes Day Room food cupboard. We met for our regular monthly meeting on Sunday, February 11, at a member's house. During the meeting, some interesting facts about St. Brigid that were posted on FaceBook were shared for those that are not on FaceBook. Then, we read the description of St. Brigid's gifts before enjoying tea, Irish skillet bread, and cookies. It was amazing how much food our small group collected for those in need.



Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville

We held out St. Brigid Mass on Sunday, February 4 at St. Clare of Assisi Church in Saint Clair. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Msgr. William F. Glosser, Pastor. Following the Mass, a tea was held and a new member, Kate McKenna Reber, was sworn in.



Front from left to right, Betty Murphy, Kathleen Valibus, Lori Michaels, Kate McKenna, Reber, and Jane Ryan. Back row, Michelle Stone, Mary Ann Lubinsky, Marie Reiley, Ann Marie Cielinski, Catherine Marie Halpin, Mary Wheeler, Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Cathy Quinn, Lydia Laughlin, Rose Ann Petrusky and Georgene Fedoriska.



Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County



On February 4th, we held our St. Brigid Mass at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church in Norristown. Fr. Herbert Sperger presided, and we were delighted to have a few of our Sisters from Maire Drumm join us!



After the service, there was a lovely brunch back at the clubhouse and it was a big hit. We had our biggest turnout yet. It was truly great to see everyone!

Lastly, one of our sister's Lynne-Marie McArthur was joined by her daughter, Kathryn and her granddaughter Athena, at the brunch and we just adored having them both with us!



Division #21 ~ Castle Shannon ~ Allegheny County

Many members of our Division attended the 36th Annual St. Brigid Mass, hosted by Allegheny County Board of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, at Chartiers Country Club.



left to right: Darlene Vietmeier, Kathy McCarty, Peggy Bond, Eileen Sheridan, Trish Conley, Tara Chevdar, Noreen Herward, Helen Rafferty

Mary Ann Raymer and Virginia Gates

Fr. Kenneth Marloviats celebrated the Mass and gave a lovely sermon honoring St. Brigid and her work in healing and noted how the LAOH follows that mission. He stressed the importance of doing "small things with love" and how that transforms the world, and that we, as members of the LAOH, can bring glory to God by being people of "friendship and unity."

Mike Gallagher provided the music, closing with Our Lady of Knock. After mass, a delicious brunch was served and special awards presented.



Jean O'Malley, from our Division was honored for her 75 years of service to the LAOH. Jean joined the LAOH when she was 16 years old. All of her children are members of the Hibernians. Jean is believed to have the longest LAOH membership in the state. Her five children and one granddaughter attended the mass and brunch.



Jean O'Malley and her daughter, Eileen O'Malley, LAOH Allegheny County Immediate Past President and Treasurer and Vice President of Div. 21



Division # 1 ~ JFK~ Lackawanna County

This was our first try at making Irish Potatoes!

It was a success! We will be selling them as a fundraiser for our Division.

Fundraiser Chair, Ginny Orr ~ mixing of ingredients.



Mary Clair Hopkins, Joann O'Malley, Ellen
Right side front to back.....



Kate Schneider mixing ingredients too!
from front to back left side ...
McDonnell

Sofia (granddaughter of Jane Shrive), Jane Shrive, and Mary Ellen Richards



The weighing and packaging by Mary Kay Sears & Dot Crowley



FINAL PRODUCT! SO YUMMY!
Now on to selling!



Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol

On January 28th, our Division celebrated with the parishioners of St Mark Roman Catholic Church, Father Mooney, Father Jacob, and Deacon Rich a wonderful Mass in honor of St. Brigid!



We are thrilled to
to induct Beth Mineer in January

We continued holding
“crash” events at some of the local business
that sell our Irish Potatoes to say thank you for
the support. On January 20th, we crashed
Aristeus Brewing.



On January 14th, we swore in our Division Board.

They are very excited for the productive and fun fill year ahead of them!



First row (left to right) Patty Delaney, Kerry Bradeis, Brianna Curran, Dolores Lynam, and Kaelin Hearn. Second Row (Left to right) Laura Moyer, Kristy Rice, Melissa Martell, Julie Florek, Kathy Harbison, Anne Taylor, and Jenn Crawford.



Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley St. Brigid Mass

On February 4th our Division gathered with the parish family of Immaculate Conception Church in Allentown to celebrate St. Brigid. We were welcomed by an enthusiastic parish and Father Kozak delighted and inspired us with his homily filled with facts regarding St. Brigid.



At the conclusion of Mass we were invited to join the Parish with the blessing of throats.

Purses, Purses, Purses

November 2016, our Division began a St. Brigid Project that continues today ~ Our Purse Project.

We collect gently used purses, clean them and then fill with personal necessities, and donate to local women's and help shelters. Most of our purses contain the following items in travel or single size: soap, lotion, shampoo, comb, tissue pack, toothbrush,

toothpaste, dental floss, lip balm, deodorant, mints, pen, notepad, sunscreen, rain poncho, emergency



blanket, scarf, hat, socks, gloves, flip-flops.

Two of our Sisters, Mary Marshall and Laura Weidman knit most of our hats and scarves!
To date we have donated 2, 043!


Question for the Board..

In this new section of the Newsletter, we will ask all the State Board Members a question for them to answer. We believe this provides yet another opportunity for Ladies across the Commonwealth to get to know their Board Members a little better.

Should you have a question you would like to ask, reach out!

**Of the many stories and legends of our patron Saint
Brigid, which is your favorite and why!**

Sister Kathleen Mary Smith, RSM ~ Chaplain ~ The story/legend that comes first to mind is my first visit to Ireland. My Dad's family is from Kildare. Dad's first cousin has a farm an Irish half-mile from the Parish Church and New current Shrine area. I walked that path along the road with him many times from the McLoughlin Farm to the Parish Church and Mick shared stories of all the miracles people have experienced. Mick hand-built a very Modest white washed stone St. Brigid's Shrine right next to the road on his own property and many little flower bouquets are placed there by locals and visitors in thanksgiving for Brigid's goodness.

Kathleen Diulus ~ President ~ *I don't have a favorite story of St. Brigid---what inspires me is that variety of patronesses that are attributed to her: poetry, blacksmiths, healing, fertility, cattle and fire. St Brigid inspires and guides so many who are looking for inspiration. She obviously was ahead of her time, as the world celebrates Brigid 1500 in 2024; it is her strength that resonates with me regardless of the situation she faced. I am excited to visit Kildare in April, the site of the abbey which St Brigid founded. I will be sure to share photos with you via this newsletter when I return.*

Carolyn Killion ~ Vice President ~ *My favorite St. Brigid tradition is hanging a St. Brigid Cross over a doorway so that St. Brigid will bless my home and family throughout the year. And yes, I do have crosses in both my houses!*

Patti Flaus ~ Secretary ~ *We've all seen the St. Brigid's cross, but I've never hears this story about it before.*

St. Brigid's Cross: Making a St. Brigid's cross is one of the traditional rituals in Ireland to celebrate the beginning of early spring, 1st February. The crosses are made of rushes that are pulled rather than cut. They are hung by the door and in the rafters to protect the house from fire and evil. According to tradition a new cross is made each St Brigid's Day, and the old one is burned to keep fire from the house. Many homes have several crosses preserved in the ceiling, the oldest blackened by many years of hearth fires. Some believe that keeping a cross in the ceiling or roof is a good way to preserve the home from fire which was always a major threat in houses with thatch and wood roofs. St. Brigid and her cross are linked together by the story that she wove this form of cross at the death bed of either her father or a pagan lord, who upon hearing what the cross meant, asked to be baptized.

One version goes as follows: "A pagan chieftain from the neighborhood of Kildare was dying. Christians in his household sent for Brigid to talk to him about Christ. When she arrived, the chieftain was raving. As it was impossible to instruct this delirious man, hopes for his conversion seemed doubtful. Brigid sat down at his bedside and began consoling him. As was customary, the dirt floor was strewn with rushes both for warmth and cleanliness. Brigid stooped down and started to weave them into a cross, fastening the points together. The sick man asked what she was doing. She began to explain the cross, and as she talked his delirium quieted and he questioned her with growing interest. Through her weaving, he converted and was baptized at the point of death. Since then, the cross of rushes has been venerated in Ireland."

Carole Cooney-Syzdek ~ Treasurer ~ *The question of her Sainthood intrigues and upsets me. I pray that with continued research, it will someday be proven that St. Brigid is a true Saint, not a con artist responsible of medieval identity theft. Until proven otherwise, she will remain St. Brigid to me and I hope this never becomes tainted.*

Brianna M. Curran ~ Historian: *I really love how St. Brigid is the patron saint of the people -midwives, newborns, Irish nuns, fugitives, blacksmiths, dairymaids, boatmen, chicken farmers, cattle, scholars, sailors, and of course beer! There are countless stories of miracles about her charity that have been handed down. It is said that when she churned butter, she would give a large portion to the poor, but then the butter would miraculously be replenished. When asked why she helped the poor, St. Brigid is recorded as having answered, "Christ is in the person of every poor person who believes." She then continued, "I find it hard to deny Christ His own food." She truly cared about the people, and I could not think of a better saint to be the patronage of our Order.*

Kathleen Varady ~ Freedom for All Ireland, Immigration & Education ~ *Of course for me it's the legend of Brigid and the King of Leinster. She told him that she had a place in Kildare where she wanted to build her convent, beside a forest where they could gather firewood and near a lake that would provide water. The land was also very fertile. The King denied her request but she was persistent and asked if he would grant her as much land as her cloak would cover. She sent her four workers to go in all directions north south east and west and as they walked the cloak grew and spread across many acres. The King then realized that Brigid truly was blessed by God and she was able to build her monastery.*

Maura O'Donnell Roszyk ~ Publicity: *My Division Historian started a yearly learning experience called BadAss Lady of the Year several years ago. She chooses an Irish or Irish American woman, and we learn about her yearly. I find St. Brigid the epitome of "BadAss" as her determination to help and empower others gave her the confidence to stand up to many, including her father, kings, and anyone who prevented her good works.*

Kalyn Populo ~ Webmaster: *I read a story that St. Brigid once dozed off during Mass. I love that (very relatable especially if you haven't had your coffee) same girl!*

Past PA State Presidents

Bonnie Collins: *Since I greatly dislike winter, I especially love St. Brigid as her day brings an end to the darkness of winter and celebrates the new season of hope and growth. St. Brigid, bring on the sunshine and warmth.*

Nancy Cullen ~ *I've visited St. Brigid's shrine in Faughart. It is known as the area of St. Brigid's birthplace. It's a beautiful shrine in County Louth. I was fortunate to visit on a couple of trips to Ireland. .*



Some Board Business Webmaster ~ Kalyn Populo

The Members Only page of the website which is accessible via password?

Email me ~ palaohwebmaster@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*

*Sadly, we must report the passing of Past President Ellen McCrane husband, Mike.
Please keep The McCranes in your thoughts, your prayers and your hearts.*



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.

Prayer Requests

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



Shirley Sestric of Division 11's daughter Erin as she navigates her pregnancy.



Kathy Fanning and Carol Trask of Division 39 as they face medical issues.



Janet Connors of Division 39 as she recovers from a fall.



Nancy Cullen of Division 39's grandson, Ronan as he faces his medical issues.



Colleen Bowers, PA Past State President, Ellen McCrane, PA Past State President, Maria Gallagher, PA Past State President, Kathleen Diulus, current PA State President 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.



Bonnie Batchelder, Juliann Donohue, and Sammi Smith 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.



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 palaohpublicity@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.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/laohalleghenyc>
and visit our revamped website ~ <https://www.laohalleghenycounty.com>



Saint Brigid's Blessing

May Brigid bless the house
wherein we dwell.
Bless every fireside, every wall
and door.
Bless every heart that beats
beneath its roof.
Bless every hand that toils to
bring its joy.
Bless every foot that walks
portals through.
May Brigid bless the house that
shelters us.
Amen

Photo of the statue of Saint Brigid,
Secondary Patron of Ireland, at Saint
Brigid's Well in Kildare town, Ireland.
We celebrate her Feast on 1 February.