

# Florida State Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians



October 2024  
Issue 6

## 2024-2025 OFFICERS

### Chaplain

Fr Marcos Zamora

### President

Louise Sullivan

### Vice President

Mary McNamee

### Secretary

Charlene Hollars

### Treasurer

Debbie Demars-Clark

### Mission & Charities

Anna Neve

### Catholic Action

Maureen Leahy-Rice

### Irish Historian

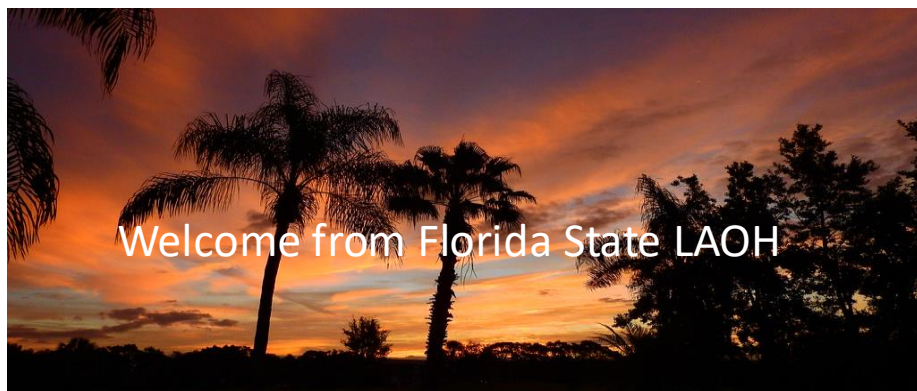
Laura Vahey

### Mistress-at-Arms

Vacant

### Sentinel

Vacant



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone,

I hope all of you have enjoyed your summer. Before we know it, our meetings and activities will start back up. I'm sure our divisions are planning some fun times so please make our State Secretary aware of them. She will share the information in case any of our sisters from other divisions are able to join in.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

It's been said before but once again I'd like to thank all the Florida ladies who volunteered at the National Convention. We received so many messages from attendees to the convention that the ladies were so helpful, knowledgeable, and very well organized. I felt so bad that I ended up ill and in bed at the hotel, but my mind was at ease because I knew everything was in your capable hands.

It was truly a blessing how many of our Florida sisters made their advance degree. It was also an honor to be the host of the first formal degree ceremony of the brand new LAOH Traveling Degree Team. Now our work will soon start on reforming our Florida Degree Team. I will be setting up a meeting with Cathy Turck, who will advise us as we begin this venture.

We will be having a state meeting in November, just not in Orlando. We are looking in the Kissimmee area at American Legion Halls. This way there's less cost for room rental, easier parking, less traffic, less walking for our members and the state will supply lunch. We will get out the information as soon as we have the location.

I hope to see all of you soon.

God Bless

Louise Sullivan

Florida State President

## Just a little update

First and foremost, we know so many of our sisters are again under the threat of unsafe conditions. Mother nature can sometimes be cruel and so we pray for you as this second hurricane heads your way. Please heed the warnings to evacuate and stay safe.

Some of you may have noticed a change to our Florida Hurricane Relief Fundraiser we have on social media and have emailed out. When we decided to do this, we reached out to the Florida AOH President asking if they would like it to be a joint effort. After a conversation both state presidents agreed that the path going forward would be a joint effort. We launched the plea on behalf of both organizations. It turns out the AOH launched their own fundraiser, not including the LAOH. We felt it necessary to amend the posts we shared on social media and email to reflect that our relief plea is just for our ladies affected by the storms. We have removed any mention of the AOH so they can not ask for half the funds.

I am hoping that many of our sisters and divisions find it in their hearts to donate, every little bit adds up to help others.

Louise Sullivan



# Ladies Ancient Order of **HIBERNIANS**



*An Irish Catholic Organization*

Dear Sisters

I would like to start by saying Thank You for your support in running for National Missions & Charities. I am excited to be elected and promise to not let you down.

To everyone who attended and supported the National Convention, thank you. The LAOH can hold their heads high in knowing we did a great job ensuring the attendees were taken care of and had a memorable time.

This has been a bit of a hectic year, some great things and some sad have happened but all part of the greater plan our Father has for us. A few quick updates on the state level include: I plan to meet with Debbie Demars Clarke when I get back from NY and finally fully transition all the Treasurer responsibilities to her. I have been working with Lousie on getting a new division started in Pinellas County, hopefully in the beginning of the New Year we will have enough members to pull the trigger. I would like to travel to each division this coming year with Louise and attend one of your meetings. Find out what your division is up to and what we can do

to help support you. Last but not least the State Board is working on an Interim Board Meeting. We will combine this meeting with our annual state outing, and it is open to everyone to attend. LAOH, AOH, family members, etc. We will use this time to not only to discuss state business and socialize but also acknowledge our current President and the work she has done during her term. As your newly elected National Missions and Charities officer you can be sure to hear from me on this level as well as far as what can we do to increase awareness and donations.

Florida State LAOH is growing, thanks to all the amazing members across the state. Your positive attitudes and hard work are making a difference!!

I am very proud to be your State Vice President and look forward to Working with and supporting you in anyway needed.

In Our Motto,

Mary

# Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc



*Organized in 1894*

## **NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, D.D., J.C.L.

## **NATIONAL DEPUTY CHAPLAIN**

Rev Fr. Ryan Duns, SJ

## **NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

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[natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com](mailto:natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com)

Phone- 570-617-7961

## **NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

Sandi Swift

[laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com)

Phone- 314-750-6907

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Phone- 636-331-3905

## **NATIONAL IRISH HISTORIAN**

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[laohnationalhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalhistorian@gmail.com)

Phone- 412-953-1875

## **NATIONAL MISSIONS & CHARITIES**

Mary McNamee

[laohnationalmissions@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalmissions@gmail.com)

Phone – 845-239-1315

## **NATIONAL OFFICE OF CATHOLIC ACTION**

Brianna Curran

[LaohNationalCA@gmail.com](mailto:LaohNationalCA@gmail.com)

Phone– 267-229-7034

## **IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT & ORGANIZER**

Marilyn Madigan

[natlorganizerlaoh@gmail.com](mailto:natlorganizerlaoh@gmail.com)

Phone- 216-470-3773

## **APPOINTEES**

**Auditor**-Christina Parisi

**Catholic Social Justice**-Sandy Merrell

**Constitution Committe Chair**-

Karen Keane, PNP

**Convention Chair**- Kathie Linton, PNP

**Freedom for All Ireland**- Kathleen Varady

**Fundraiser**- Ellen McCrane

**Immigration** -Siobhan Dennehy

**Legal Counsel**- Ann Durkin Fisher, JD

**Public Relations** - Kim DePeaux

**Social Media & Web**- Maggie Brogan

**Supplies**- Kelly Hajek

**Tax Expert**-Kathryn Keane, EA

## **SOAR Donations:**

Make the Checks payable to LAOH, Inc with SOAR in the memo. Each Catholic Action Officer should track the donations from their Divisions on the Catholic Action Donation form and send a copy of this completed form up the chain to Catholic Action Officers on the County and State levels for their records.

Mail checks and completed form (forms must have your name, Division, County and State information) to the National Catholic Action Officer.

## **Address:**

Brianna Curran  
1516 Wilson Aveune  
Bristol, PA 19007

**Cell Phone:** 267-229-7034

**Email:** LAOHNationalCA@Gmail.com

Each State Catholic Action Officer will receive a quarterly report from the National Catholic Action Officer summarizing the Project St. Patrick and SOAR donations for their state.

THANK YOU for supporting the Catholic Action projects of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In Our Motto- Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Brianna Curran  
National Catholic Action Officer  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



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September 2, 2024

Dear Sisters,

I am honored I was appointed new chair of the National Catholic Social Justice Education Committee. I have had the pleasure of being a member of this committee since its inception in 2020. The focus of the committee has been to educate the membership on a variety of Catholic Social Justice issues such as webinars on inclusion of those with disabilities during Mass and environmental racism, articles on maternal and baby health concerns, and a Columban Fathers Border Encounter trip to El Paso to experience the work they do at their mission on the US/Mexican border. I am excited that the committee will continue to inform you about Catholic Social Justice issues especially those highlighted by the USCCB.

I have been a member of the LAOH since 2004. I have served as my division FFAI appointee, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. I have been the FFAI appointee, Catholic Action officer, Vice-President, and currently the President LAOH State of Missouri. I am a member of the national FFAI committee. I was the 2008 Young Hibernian of the Year and the 2024 Lady Hibernian of the Year in Saint Louis.

Professionally, I am a National Board Certified Social Studies Teacher; I co-sponsor Best Buddies which is an international organization that promotes friendship and inclusion of those who have disabilities and I sponsor Model UN at the high school. I am an AP World: Modern Reader for College Board.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

*Gandy*

Sandy Merrell  
laohncsjec@gmail.com

*www.ladiesaoh.com*

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PRESIDENT & ORGANIZER**

Marilyn Madigan  
laohnationalorganizer@gmail.com  
Phone-216-470-3773

August 29, 2024

Dear Sisters,

First, I would like to thank you for electing me as your National Missions and Charities Officer. I am humbled by your faith in me, and I will work hard to honor it.

I grew up in a large Irish Catholic Family on Long Island, and my parents instilled in us the importance of mission work. They had close friends in the Maryknoll Missions, who were like family to us. We loved when we received a letter from Father Moe or Father Jim giving us updates on the work they were doing in Guatemala, Korea, or Japan. It was even better when they would come to visit and tell us in person.

When I joined the LAOH and attended my first Florida State Meeting I met Sister Corona from the Columban Sisters. After speaking with her I realized being a member of the LAOH was what I was meant to be doing. To see her again at the 2024 National Convention and meet Father Brannagan of the Columban Fathers solidified my commitment to the LAOH.

My goal during this term is to increase awareness of their work and the positive impact they are making. A motion was made at the convention and seconded to honor the Columban Sisters 100th year anniversary by having each division across the country increase their normal donation by an additional \$100.00. If you need assistance in coming up with ideas on how to raise this money, I am happy to help you. Our next convention will be held in the great state of Nebraska, the U.S. home base of the Columban Fathers. This will be a wonderful opportunity to visit and honor them for all they have accomplished. In addition to supporting the Columban Fathers and Sisters I look forward to continuing the growth of the Appeals for Aid Fund.

Again, I thank you for your faith in me. Please reach out with any questions, thoughts, concerns. I will work hard to get back to you right away. Even if I don't have an answer right away, I will get one for you.

I look forward to working with you all to help make the LAOH an even greater organization than it already is.

Yours In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Mary McNamee

*www.ladiesaoh.com*



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Dear Sisters,

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been appointed to serve as your National Webmaster for the next two years. Thank you to President Lubinsky for this opportunity.

I am a proud member of Division 7, Our Lady of Knock, in East Islip, NY. I had a short tenure in the Junior Girls in the early 2000s, came back to join the LAOH in 2020, made my Degree at the first opportunity in 2021, and quickly became involved on the County and Division levels. Currently, I serve as the Suffolk County Catholic Action Officer, and serve the elected office of Financial Secretary and appointed office of Publicity/Webmaster on a Division level.

I am extremely excited to spend the next two years collaborating and working with you all to continue to bring the LAOH up to speed with technology and social media. A few items that I am hoping to focus on include looking into an online application, setting up fillable social media graphics, making the website more user friendly and accessible, and providing more educational resources. I am also hoping to partner with our National Board Officers and Appointees to continue to offer webinars on content our members are interested in.

Please keep an eye on the Webmaster's page on our website, as I will be updating it often with new resources. In addition, please continue to send me your newsletters, Division/County/State contact and social media info, and obituaries so that I can continue to post them to the website for you.

My ultimate goal for this term is to be a resource to all our members so that we can grow together! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I am just a text, email, or Zoom call away. I am happy to help in any way that I can and if I don't have the answer, I am more than willing to track one down for you.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

*Maggie Brogan*

Maggie Brogan

National Webmaster

(631) 252-4969

LAOHNationalWebmaster@gmail.com

*www.ladiesaoh.com*



Florida members with National President, Mary Ann Lubinski.





Colleen Walker, Dr. Liz Ricketts-Jones, Audrey Gangloff, Catherine Gangloff, Charlene Hollars, Liz DiLacqua



Mary McNamee, Florida VP and Colleen Walker, Past President, Hillsborough County



Liz DiLacqua and Charlene Hollars guarding the basket for New National Missions & Charity Officer Mary McNamee

Mary McNamee Accepting her Congratulations Basket



### USF Irish Studies at Convention

Representatives from USF Irish Studies enjoyed their time at the AOH/LAOH Convention in August. We shared exciting developments in Irish Studies at USF, including student activities, coursework, a new study abroad program, and additions to our research collections.



From left to right: Kathryn (LuLu) Downing, USF History Graduate Student; Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, LAOH sister and USF English Assistant Professor of Instruction; Hannah Thieryung, USF History Graduate Student; Dr. Jennifer Knight, USF History Associate Professor of Instruction and Assistant Director of the USF Humanities Institute

THE USF HUMANITIES INSTITUTE PRESENTS

# HUMANITIES & HOPS

*Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.*

## Irish Studies at USF

Join the 2023-2024 Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship cohort as they discuss their year-long collaborative research experience on Global Irish Studies at the University of South Florida and the exciting ongoing programs that have grown out of their fellowship year. Joining the discussion will be USF graduate students, Hannah Thieryung and Lulu Downing, president and vice-president of the USF Irish Culture and Language Club.



**Jennifer Knight, PhD**  
*Associate Prof. of Instruction*  
History



**Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, PhD**  
*Assistant Prof. of Instruction*  
English



**Lulu Downing**  
*Master's Student*  
History



**Hannah Thieryung**  
*Master's Student*  
History



**Tuesday, September 17**

Doors Open: 6:30 PM | Event Start: 7:00 PM



**New World Tampa (Music Hall)**

810 East Skagway Ave, Tampa, FL 33604



RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/humandhops9-17>

Event is free and open to the public

More information: [www.humanities-institute.usf.edu](http://www.humanities-institute.usf.edu)

For questions or accommodations, email [jvonwerder@usf.edu](mailto:jvonwerder@usf.edu)



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**  
Humanities Institute

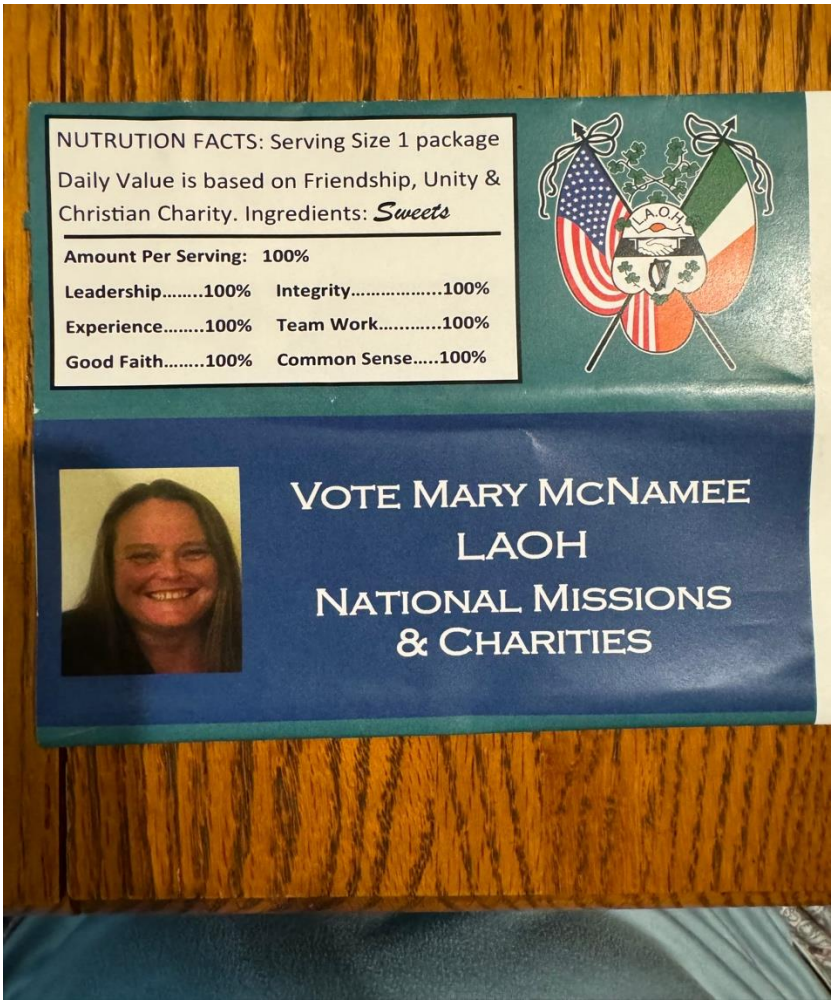
Please come support LAOH sister Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones as she shares about her year as a Humanities Institute Faculty Fellow in Global Irish Studies.

## **USF Study Abroad in Ireland**

In Summer 2025, LAOH sister Dr. Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones will lead a study abroad program to Ireland and teaching a course called Irish Literature in Ireland. Course participants will start in Dublin, situating our learning in the backdrop of the 1916 Easter Rising and the Irish Literary and Cultural Revival. We'll travel on to the northwest of Ireland to experience Sligo, the homeland of Nobel Prize winning Irish author W.B. Yeats and see the sights that inspired his most famous works, such as Knocknaree and Ben Bulbin. From Sligo, spend a few days learning about the Northern Irish troubles in the cultural and political hotspots of Derry and Belfast. The trip will end in Newgrange, a priceless monument to prehistoric Irish history. These explorations will highlight our study of key works of Irish literature by authors including Sally Rooney, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, Lady Augusta Gregory, Seamus Heaney, and Michael Longley. Please click [here](#) for the official program overview by USF.

LAOH and AOH members over the age of 50 may join the study abroad course by registering through USF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Please click [here](#) for more information and how to register for OLLI. Please note that the program will require a significant amount of walking on uneven surfaces. For more information, contact Liz at [ericketts@usf.edu](mailto:ericketts@usf.edu).

Please consider a gift to the AOH and LAOH Irish Studies fund at USF to help defray the significant costs for students to study abroad in Ireland. This magical experience could be life-changing for students who wish to get in touch with their Irish roots, learn more about Ireland, and experience the beauty of Irish culture, history, heritage, and nature. Through your generosity, you could help students ignite a lifelong love and passion for Ireland. You can give online by going to [giving.usf.edu/online](http://giving.usf.edu/online), clicking on "Search for a USF Fund," and entering #420178 in the search bar. Please reach out to Liz at [ericketts@usf.edu](mailto:ericketts@usf.edu) if you need assistance.



I love the Nutrition Facts on the back  
Of Mary's Candy Bar...Good Job!



## LAOH /STATE MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING LAOH STATE CONVENTION – Scheduled for November 9, 2024. More information will be shared when details are finalized.

# An Irish Prayer



May God give you  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
a faithful friend to share,  
For every sign, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer."



Marilyn Madigan hosts a Congratulation Party for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Everyone had a great time!



Brunch after our  
Last meeting of the  
Season and our  
Crowning of Mary  
Ceremony  
Hillsborough county

Indian River  
and  
Brevard





Afghan being raffled at the Craft Fair on 10/19/24 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center. Proceeds to go to St. Vincent de Paul

Patriotic Afghan being Raffled at the Craft Fair On 10/19/24 at Prince Of Peace Catholic Church In Sun City Center. Proceeds To go to My Warriors





Indian River county making a donation for the WWII Memorial being built in Vero Beach. Can't wait to see it completed!



ORGANIZED IN 1894

Dear Madam President,

Thank you for this opportunity to report how our LAOH Pasco Division is doing.

Since our last report earlier this year, not much has been happening. I was absent during April and May as my dad fell ill and eventually made his way to his heavenly home. During my absence, our Vice President stepped up and held our division meetings.

During the summer months our division does not meet. However, myself and our Past President, Jackie LaGuardia attended the National Convention in Orlando. We enjoyed meeting our fellow LAOH Sisters and AOH Brothers.

Although this update sounds like a lot of things that we don't do or have not done, please know that the Pasco Division is trying. The Ladies have raised over \$300.00 so far this year for our charities. As we resume meetings, we will be focusing a great deal on fundraising for the remainder of the year.

We also have a lady in our community who crochets baby blankets and bonnets. These items are being donated to the LAOH for one of our charities S.O.L.V.E.. We look forward to presenting these items along with a cash donation.

We are looking forward to a good rest of the year!

I gCairdeas, Aontacht & Carthanacht Chríostaí

Debbie Demars-Clark, President  
St. Bridgid, Div 1, Pasco County, FL  
Florida State Treasurer  
(951) 333-4396  
debbie@homesbydebbiedemars.com

Greetings Sisters,

I would like to share a recap of the LAOH St Augustine Division 2 first year happenings. We became an official division on 9/19/23, thanks to the efforts of sister Maureen Leahy Rice, who is our division Vice President. Maureen was the only one who had any idea what this organization was about and guided us the whole way on expectations and how we would proceed from there.

We had no start up funds, and no bank account until January 2024. There were a few sisters who attended the State Conference in October 2024, and thanks to the sister divisions, we were very grateful to have our official banner cost donated to us. Up until that point, we weren't sure how we would afford a banner to march in the St. Augustine St Patrick's Day parade.

We had our first St Brigid Mass celebration on January 27, 2024, and thanks to the members with support by our AOH brothers, it was a success and we had our first event under our belt!

We marched (with our beautiful banner and the AOH) in the St. Augustine St. Patrick's Day on March 9, 2024 parade and presented as a solid cohesive group.

Next up, we had a hugely successful baby shower in May, with all proceeds going to the Alpha Omega Home for women and children.

We had a wonderful attendance for our young division at the National Convention in August, 2024, and we are so proud that six sisters became degreed at the convention. The newly degreed are Marycatherine Noble, Jean Kopsky, ReginaMajor, Margaret Grissinger, Margaret Borowiec and myself.

This brings us to a total of 9 degreed members in our division, as Maureen Leahy-Rice, Stephanie Leahy and Patricia Fauls all transferred in. We all learned so much at National about the LAOH, and got to socialize with fellow divisions of both the AOH and LAOH.

Finally, we celebrated our 1 year anniversary with our first big fundraiser for the year - a Half Way to St. Patrick's Day celebration, where we raffled off a "Pot of Gold", a Wagon of Cheer and a 50/50. It was a wonderful time, and brought us all a sense of accomplishment for our efforts in our first year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothyann Connallon  
President  
LAOH St. Augustine Division 2





# St. Augustine





To All Our Florida Members Who Received Their Degrees

Margaret Borowiec– St. John’s  
Dorothyann Connallon – St. John’s  
Patricia Cooper – Indian River  
Kelly Darmetko – Indian River  
Maureen Fitzpatrick –Indian River  
Audrey Gangloff – Hillsborough  
Catherine Gangloff – Hillsborough  
Margaret Grissinger – St. John’s  
Jean Kopsky – St. John’s  
Ruth Kucharski – Indian River  
Regina Major – St. John’s  
Mary McNamee – Indian River  
Marycatherine Noble – St. John’s  
Gabrielle Olav – Indian River  
Dorothy Plitsch – Indian River  
Alycia Sherman - Hillsborough

## Prayer for Protection During a Storm

*Loving God, maker of heaven and earth, protect us in your love and mercy. Send the Spirit of Jesus to be with us, to still our fears and give us confidence.*

*In the stormy waters, Jesus reassured his disciples by his presence, calmed the storm, and strengthened their faith. Guard us from harm during this storm and renew our faith to serve you faithfully.*

*Give us the courage to face all difficulties and the wisdom to see the ways your Spirit binds us together in mutual assistance. With confidence we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hurricane Donations can be sent to the Florida LAOH via Venmo to:

@FLstatelaoh

Or

Checks can be sent to

Mary McNamee

364 Sebastian Crossings Blvd

Sebastian, FL 32958



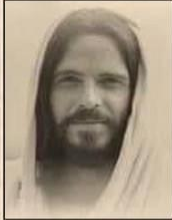
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**JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a



Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of his death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper, celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the Tomb. Roman Soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did and believe in Him. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.



THOSE WE LOVE  
DON'T GO AWAY,  
THEY WALK BESIDE  
US EVERY DAY,  
UNSEEN, UNHEARD,  
BUT ALWAYS NEAR,  
STILL LOVED, STILL  
MISSED AND VERY  
DEAR. - IRISH  
BLESSING

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