



# Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

2024 Edition IV

## *A Word from Kathleen, our President...*

Greetings Ladies,

Fall is my favorite time of year! It is the best time to travel in our state with the leaves changing colors.

This year also marks the start of the last year of my role as PA LAOH President. I look forward to our State Convention in Scranton in July 2025, but I don't want to rush these months either.

Please reach out to your State Board officers with questions or for mentoring. The LAOH is strong in PA, but it is changing, so we are all learning and growing together! Your officers are here to assist.

Please continue inviting me to Division events and anniversaries, as I truly enjoy meeting many of my Hibernian sisters across the Commonwealth.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

*Kathleen*

Kathleen Dilius  
PA State President  
National Irish Historian



## 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 them with any questions or concerns

**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

**Members Only Page** ~ Reach out to your Division President or to our Webmaster for the special  
Members Only Password



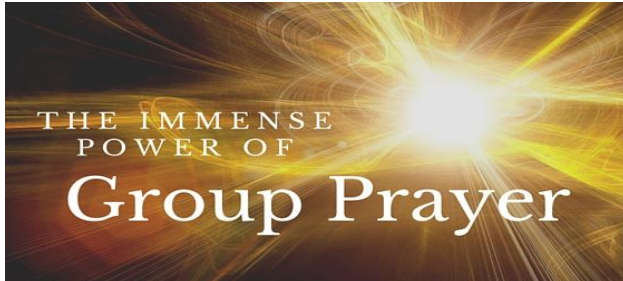
In this section, you will also find our Bylaws, the Official National Constitution, and our Official Ritual Guide

**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 me at [briana.m.curran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paLAOHmor@gmail.com)



### *LAOH's Embracing Our Heritage Program*

Please visit the National website~ [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://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!



# A 50/50 State Board Raffle

## 🎃 Celtic New Year 50/50 RAFFLE 🎃

Get ready for a spooky good time and a chance to WIN BIG!

 **DRAWING DATE: October 31, 2024**

 **Ticket Price: \$10 Each or 3 for \$25**

### How It Works:

- 1. Buy Your Tickets** – Just \$10 each or 3 for \$25.  
*Early Purchasers may be able to select their numbers. Others randomly assigned*
- 2. Check the Numbers** – The winning number will be based on the Pennsylvania Daily Evening Pick 3 Number on October 31, 2024.
- 3. WIN HALF the Pot!** – If your ticket number matches the winning number, you take home 50% of the total prize pool!

### 🎁 PRIZES 🎁:

- 50% of the total amount raised!

### All proceeds go to LAOH PA State Board

PA LAOH State Board  
@PALAOH

- Venmo



@PALAOH

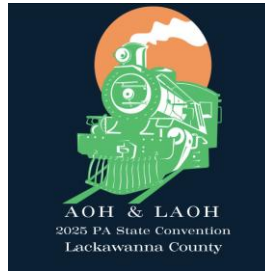
- Send Check Payable to **LAOH, Inc PA State Board** to  
Carolyn Killion  
621 Willow Bend Dr  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

- Contact Any State Board Officer for Cash Purchase

 **Questions? Contact Carolyn Killion 610 389-1911**

**palaohvicepresident@gmail.com**

# State Convention 2025!



The Facebook page is live! Check it out at ~  
**AOH & LAOH 2025 Pennsylvania State Convention**

Website is coming soon.

**EXCITING NEWS!!!**

You can now book your room for our AOH/LAOH PA STATE Convention

**July 17-20, 2025**

**Hilton Scranton & Conference Center ~ 100 Adams Avenue Scranton, PA 18503**

570-343-3000

**Ask for Ancient Order of Hibernians rate...**

July 17-20, 2025 (rates are good from July 14-20, reservation must be in on or before May 15th)

\$135.00 per night plus tax,

(Parking lot is privately owned not by the Hilton)

Parking is \$15.00 per day for cars ~ \$20.00 per day for oversized vehicles

(Parking rates are subject to change without notice).



## National Convention 2024 Recap

102nd Biennial AOH-LAOH Convention in Orlando FL

Aug 7th - 11th 2024

Look at all the Pennsylvania Ladies in Attendance!!



## Highlights

- Changes to the Constitution
  - A prayer has been added to the Closing Ritual
    - Report Deadlines have changed
    - Convention 2027 ~ Omaha, Nebraska
    - Convention 2029 ~ Atlantic City, New Jersey
- Lastly, the National Board is hosting a Raffle**

The 2024-2025 National Board Raffle Fundraiser is now underway - YOU can win! 

### Prizes

- Early Bird Drawings:
  - Thanksgiving - \$100 
  - Christmas - \$100 
- Other drawings:
  - St. Patrick's Day - \$100 
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> - \$1000 
  - Plus: 26 weekly drawings for \$25 each
  - Six months of prizes!

### Tickets: \$20 each

- Two tickets each have been mailed to the National Board, State Presidents, County Presidents and Division Presidents. Please send your checks in so you can be part of the Early Bird Drawings.
- Please consider selling some additional tickets if possible – just send me an email and I will be glad to send out additional tickets for you
- Email: [nationallaohafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohafflechair@gmail.com)
- Thank you for all you do for our order!
  - Ellen McCrane  
LAOH National Fundraiser  
21 Titus Court  
Richboro, PA 18954

  
*News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth*  
*Pennsylvania Proud!*

**The New National President is our very own MaryAnn Lubinsky!**

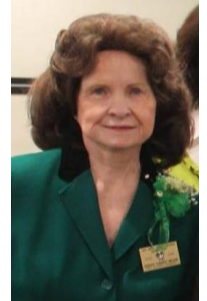


Additionally, we Congratulate Kathleen Diulus elected Irish Historian and Brianna Curran elected as our Catholic Action officer.

Additionally, a congratulations goes out to new appointees  
National FFAI chair Kathy Varady and National Fundraising chair Ellen McCrane!  
Check out the Getting to Know You Section to learn a bit more about Mary Ann.



The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. under the National President Marilyn Madigan noted that  
***“Let it be known to all that the National Board of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., under the authority of the National President bestows this Proclamation to: Dorothy Weldon, Past National President in recognition for her Leadership and Service to Our Order. Your Community, Church and Neighbors have been changed due to your Strong Tradition of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.”***



The National Board Congratulates you,  
Your Family, Division, County and State on Your long History of Hibernians.  
Presented by National President Marilyn Madigan.



## Centennial Commemoration of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument

On the weekend of September 20th, many Sisters gathered in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the Centennial Commemoration of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument while unveiling a new marker that, too, the LAOH sponsored.

Through the efforts of Ellen Jolly, a determined, wonderfully strong leader and President of our organization, the monument was dedicated on September 20, 1924. On the face of the granite monument is a bronze base relief panel picturing twelve nuns. The inscription above says:

**THEY COMFORTED THE DYING, NURSED THE WOUNDED, CARRIED HOPE TO THE IMPRISONED, GAVE IN HIS NAME A DRINK OF WATER TO THE THIRSTY."**

In 1914, having heard the stories of the battlefield nuns for years, Ellen Jolly proposed a monument to honor the work of these selfless females, many of whom were Irish. Initially, the War Department turned down her proposal, citing a lack of written evidence to support the nuns' role during the war. Jolly spent many years compiling what would become one of the first substantial bodies of knowledge about female Catholic nurses on the battlefield. Finally, on March 29, 1918, Congress approved the creation of the sculpture but stipulated that it would not be government-funded. Again, Ellen Jolly was



instrumental in raising the funding, leading a committee that raised \$50,000.(excerpt from our Sister Kathleen!)

The marker, an idea from former National President Marilyn Madigan, further highlights the selfless contributions of the nuns during the American Civil War many years back. A member of the design team, Marily and the team created an interactive experience for those seeking to deepen their understanding of this pivotal moment in American history.





LAOH National Board joins Mary Ann Lubinsky, National President and Bishop Schlert, National Chaplain. In the top right corner is Jacqueline Jolly the great-granddaughter of Ellen Jolly.

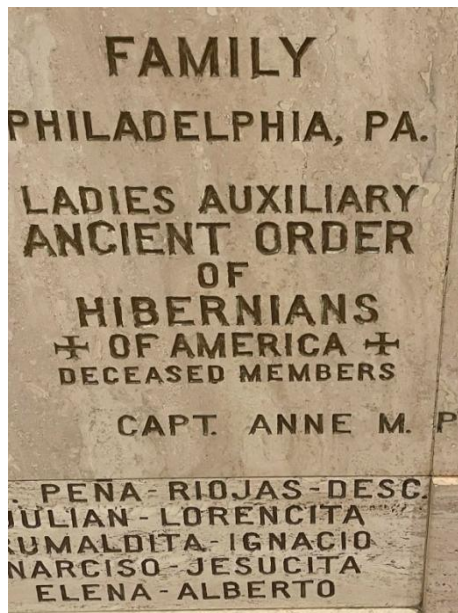
Representatives from the Religious Orders depicted on the Monument



While in DC, the Ladies spent some time at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, North America's largest Catholic church building.



They had the privilege of visiting the Sacristy to view a chalice and other items gifted by the LAOH, and the Saint Brigid's altar in the Crypt, also an LAOH gift.

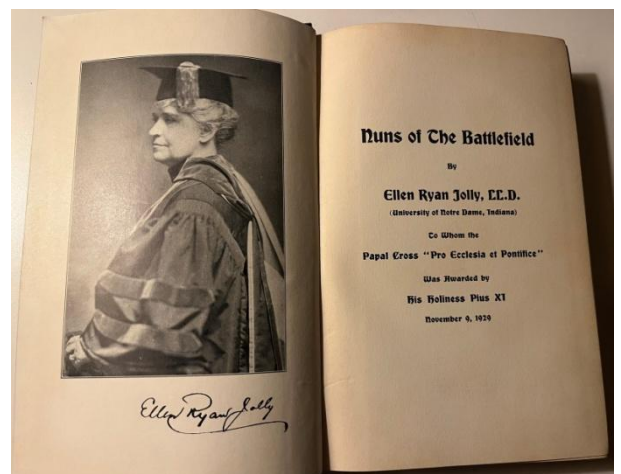


The Ladies visited the the Brigid of Ireland Chapel which the LAOH donated and Bishop Shahan dedicated on September 24, 1927.

Be sure to check out the Webinar on the National Website about the Nuns of the Battlefield

[Embracing Our Heritage Program | Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. \(ladiesaoh.com\)](http://ladiesaoh.com)

Introductory pages of the book "Nuns of the Battlefield" show the author, Ellen Ryan Jolly, a leader in the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish American Catholic group. In her book, she chronicled the story of the Catholic women religious who served as nurses during the Civil War. (Catholic Standard photo)







## 147<sup>th</sup> Rope Mass ~ Old Jail Museum, Jim Thorpe

On Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Sisters and Brothers, along with other proud Irish Americans, gathered at the Old Jail Museum to commemorate the passing of the Molly Maguires. Division One, Molly Maguires, once again hosted the moving Mass and a lovely luncheon.

In commemoration, a Memorial Mass was celebrated under the gallows in the Old Jail Museum on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, a solemn and significant event to remember those unjustly executed. Father Ronald Minner, who led us in prayer, reminded us, "Carry the cross, do what is right. We must all help to instill peace and defend what is right as small acts can create big unexpected differences." Father challenged everyone, "Pledge to pray and support one another, to forgive ~ even those who don't deserve forgiveness; this will help us all work for the common good as the Molly Maguire did."

The Old Jail Museum, generously opened to us yearly by the McBride family and their staff, is a testament to their kindness and support. 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 proclaiming their innocence and were inspired to accept and embrace Father Minner's challenge.



## Congratulations Maria McDonald~ Division 39

Maria served as the AOH National Secretary's Office Manager for Ed Halligan, since September 2022. After he had a stroke, I took on Ed's duties, too, thanks to Sean Pender showing her the ropes. I stayed on as acting National Secretary until the office was moved to Florida in August.

Ray Lynch was appointed National Secretary in June, 2023, but Maria continued to run the office. Sean Pender visited before her last day, taking her to lunch, and presenting a plaque, and two tickets to the opening musical from Ireland, "Where Eagles Fly".





# *County and Division Updates*

## **Allegheny County**

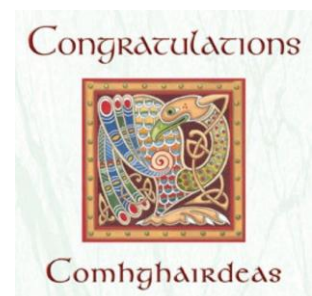
Allegheny County was well represented at the National Convention in August.  
Looking forward to the Convention in Omaha in 2026.



We had a beautiful celebration for Our Lady of Knock.  
Congratulations to Sisters who received their golden rose.



The Allegheny County Broad wishes to congratulate Kathleen Diulus, our local Sister, on becoming the National Historian. We know she will do a fabulous job!





## Lackawanna County

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 the County Board Members of the LAOH and AOH of Lackawanna County, Scranton, PA held their annual Membership Drive.

Tricky Tray's, 50/50 chances, a basket of cheer along with light refreshments were offered at this successful event. "Our friendship knows no boundaries, and it will last for eternity".



Dot Crowley - LAOH County President, Alice McDermott - County Secretary, Ellen McDonnell and Tammy Jackson



Mary Ann Boylan helping out at the Basket of Cheer table



Mary Ellen Richards and Mary Clair Kingsley



Joanne O'Malley and Nancy De Primo



Tricky Tray donations from our generous Divisions



*In our Motto, "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity," a warm welcome is extended to two of the new members who signed up today, Kate Kearney and Alice Turner.*

*We gathered as a County to celebrate Our Lady of Knock*



Presenting the Offertory Gifts are Lackawanna County Board Catholic Action Officer Kathy Connor and PA State Trustee of the Home Funds Jeff Sears



*Celebrants at the Mass held in honor of Our Lady of Knock were Rev. Martin Gaiardo & Deacon Joseph Marcellus along with Alice McDermott, Eucharistic Minister and Lackawanna County Board Secretary*



*Presentation of flowers to the Holy Family, LAOH County Board President; Dot Crowley and AOH County Vice President; Conal McHugh*

***LAOH & AOH members gathered to honor Our Lady of Knock at Mary Mother of God Parish in Scranton***





**Remembering Hibernian sisters and brothers. LAOH Past State President; Kate Angerson, Lackawanna County Board President; Dot Crowley and Lackawanna County Board Vice-president; Conal McHugh, holding the Memorial Poster in honor of AOH and LAOH members that have passed since 2023.**



## **Philadelphia County**

*The County Board hosted a Celtic Wisdom Tea and Retreat in June  
What a wonderful day ~ a relaxing afternoon of friendship, tea, refreshments, and friends followed  
by a spiritual retreat guided by Sister Lisa Breslin, SSJ  
All proceeds of this meaningful day were donated to  
the Melissa Bowers Domestic Violence Awareness Initiative*





## **Division #4 ~ Trinity ~ Delaware County**

*In late June we held our Annual BBQ ~  
a great way to wind down a busy spring and gather for some good reconnecting.*



*In August, we celebrated Our Lady of Knock with a beautiful Mass*



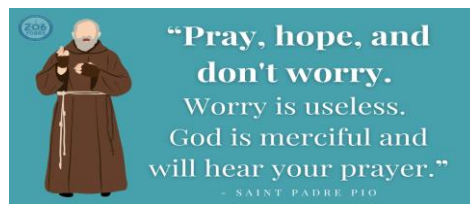
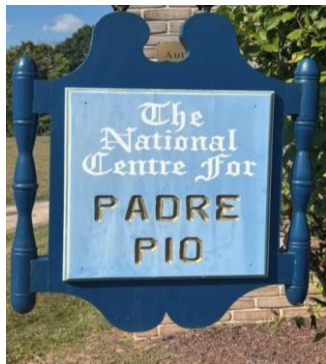
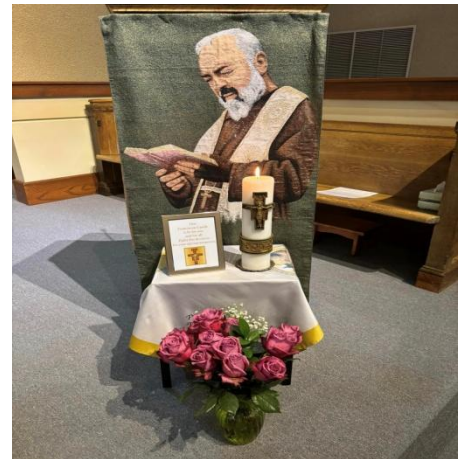


*In September, together we had a beautiful day to visit the Padre Pio Shrine*





*Located in beautiful Barto, Pennsylvania, the National Centre for Padre Pio is a scenic destination filled with the peace and prayerfulness of Padre Pio's spirit. Built to resemble Padre Pio's friary in San Giovanni Rontondo, Italy, the Centre offers a number of outdoor statues, a magnificent chapel, and a full museum filled with cultural and religious relics. Explore the gallery, and visit the center to see each location for yourself.*



### **Division #25 ~ Philadelphia County**

*In May, our Division collected and donated over 300 pounds of food items to CHOP'S Ronald McDonald house.*

*We heard that their pantry was empty and we wanted to help.*

*Also, being the Month of May, we wanted to do something a little special for our new mom's' We gave each mom a WaWa gift card, truffles for the sweet tooth, and a card of encouragement.*







## **Division #1 ~ Molly Maguires ~ Carbon County**

*We thank our Sisters from across the Commonwealth for joining us for our Annual Rope Mass in June. The somber occasion was highlighted by the inspirational homily of Father and the spirit of remembrance that we Hibernians share.*

*After the Mass, we invited all of our guests to a Sister's home for a light lunch.*

*We were even treated to the beautiful singing of AOH Dennis Nestor!*



*We had a wonderful Our Lady of Knock Mass.*



*For our charity project in the spirit of Our Lady, we collected school supplies for local schools.*



## **Division #5 ~ Bucks County**

*We have been busy over the last several months!*

*In May we held our first ever Bingo fundraiser. It was such a great success, already planning for next year!! A big Thank You to our Treasurer, Debbie Kkeinfelder, for heading up Bingo night!! Great job!!*



*In May, we also participated in our local Memorial Day parade, marching with Irish pride!*



*In June, we once again joined forces with AOH members to provide and serve lunch/dessert to the Delaware Valley Veterans Home for their annual Father's Day BBQ. It was a great day serving the residents, along with their families!!*



*In July, we had a social gathering at a Trenton Thunder game. Perfect summer event, baseball and fireworks!! Shout out to our Recording Secretary, Kelly Goodwin, for organizing this fun night!*



### **Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County**

Our Division may have taken a break this summer but our Community Service committee definitely did not! They put in many hours over the summer sorting through bins at Fostering Hope in Limerick PA. Fostering Hope is a great organization that helps kids and foster families get clothes, toiletries and furniture at short notice after the kids are removed from their situation.



L-R Peggy Senico, Kelly Coughlin, Nancy DiFiore, Jo-Ellen Roberts, Kathy Kelly, Susan DeMedio



L-R Jeanine Snyder, Nancy DiFiore, Judy Meeks, Peggy Senico

Our Ladies were responsible for the turnover from summer clothes to winter wardrobe.



Jeanine, Peggy and Judy making sure everything looks good!



We also had a food drive for Our Daily Bread in Collegetown trying to stock up their shelves with the increase in needs due to kids being home from school.



### **Division #4 ~ Mary Ellen O'Neil**

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in August.

Dorothy was honored at the Anniversary for her exemplary life as a Hibernian.

*The 40th Anniversary Celebration included: Carole Seader, Patricia Loversidge Garber, Gloria Tracey, Ellen Cmar, Helen Bednarczyk and Dorothy Weldon in Monessen, Pennsylvania.*



### **Division # 2 ~ St. Columcille ~ Berks County**

During Our Lady of Knock Mass, our Division decided that we would ask our parish of St. Columkill to help us with a project for homeless youth in Berks County. We always have a baby shower for Mary's Shelter in Reading in May. We recently found out that they also house homeless youth ages 14 years to 21. They were denied federal funding and they keep this program alive through donations and grants. In honor of our Lady, we will make this an annual project and collect items most needed by the shelter.

In October, we have an apple dumpling fundraiser and participate in our parish Basket Party by entering a hamper basket handmade by one of our members, filled by the Ladies, and entered as a grand prize. We are excited to see how it tends to be a favorite basket everyone looks for each year.

In addition to supporting our LAOH Charities, we have several local and personal donations we gave in September. At least 15 of our Ladies purchased tickets to a Celtic Christmas Show in December, a cross between Trans Siberian Orchestra meets Riverdance. We feel it's essential to meet socially to keep our sisterhood alive and active.



### **Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville**

***Celebrating 53 years and our Sister, National President!***

Our Division is proud of our dear Sister, MaryAnn Lubinsky, our new National President.

We wish her all the best during her term, but we know how amazing she will be!



Our Division members that were in attendance at the Convention had a wonderful time. Member Carole Cooney-Syzdek who also serves as the State Treasurer was honored to serve as Marshall during the Convention.



Congratulations to Sister Alice Henry who celebrates being a LAOH member for 53 years!

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, we gathered to celebrate Our Lady of Knock at at Holy Cross Church

Left to right are Michelle Stone, Lydia Laughlin, Betty Murphy and Ann Marie Cielinski. Second row, left to right Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Rose Ann Petrusky and Dan Koury, our Division AOH.



### ***Division # 1~ Chester County***

We are a small but mighty Division, down to sixteen members. We met at our Vice President's home in June for a luncheon meeting. We voted to make three \$250 donations to the local charities of Mom's House, St. Mary's Shelter, and the Day Room at St. Agnes. In July, we came together as a Division for the LAOH/AOH Mass and picnic at St. Malachy Church, strengthening our bonds and enjoying each other's company. We kicked off our Fall by selling Boscov's Friends Helping Friends passes, and we look forward to adopting a family for Christmas through a domestic violence organization.



## **Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County**

At the end of April, we hosted a Craft Fair at Plymouth Fire House.

We sold hoagies, crafts, baked goods and fresh flowers.

There were beautiful baskets to raffle off as well as a 50/50.

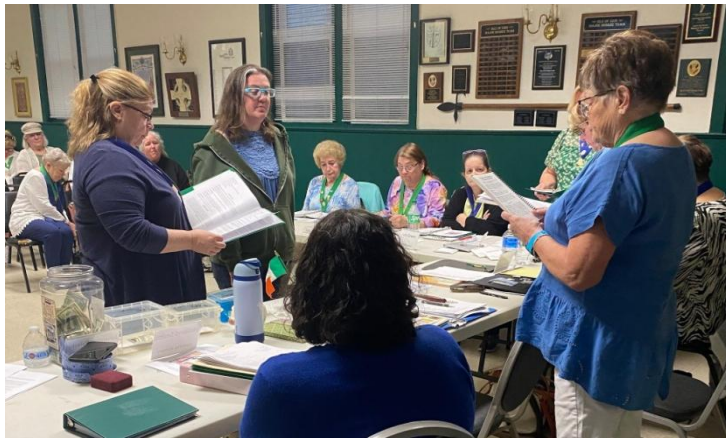
The craft fair was a huge success and we wish for all to attend next year!

May was a busy month for us as we awarded our Irish Heritage scholarship award to Michael Bartley. Michael is the son of our sister, Joanne Bartley.

We wish Michael luck on his collegiate journey!



(L to R) Missions and Charities Officer, Carol Smith, Joanne Bartley, Michael Bartley, Vice President, Anne Gabor.



Also in May, we inducted Jessica Hedrick into our division.

We are so happy that Jessica decided to join us!

We celebrated Mother Mary with a May Procession.



Marianne Dobbins was named May Queen and crowned Mary in a small ceremony after our meeting concluded.

### **National Convention**

During the National Convention in August, one of our sisters, Jeanne

Anderson, was degreed by the first National Degree Team. We are thrilled for Jeanne and Congratulate her on becoming a degreed member of the

Order! Jeanne was joined by her sponsor, Mary Jo Katona, at the

Convention and reported that the Zoom meetings provided before the Convention were beneficial when they attended Convention committees.

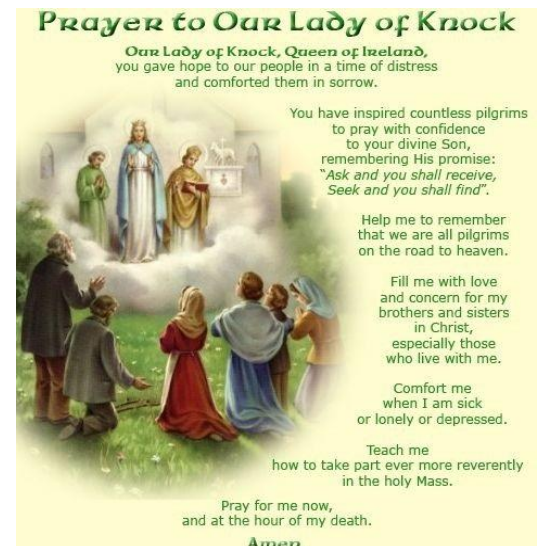


While at the Convention, Jeanne and Mary Jo represented our Division to the Human Aid Foundation by explaining all that we do for the Patrician Society and all that the Patrician Society does for those affected by domestic violence. Mary Jo and Jeanne were awarded for their efforts and the Patrician Society was granted a national grant to help in their efforts to provide for those in need.

Congratulations, Mary Jo and Jeanne! Thank you for your hard work!



*Missions and Charities Officer,  
Carol Smith,  
presenting the award to  
Patrician Society  
Director, LeeAnn Wheeler Rooney.*



### **Celebrating Our Lady of Knock**

We held our Lady of Knock mass at St. Patrick's Church in Norristown. Fr. Caesar presided and joined us for breakfast afterward at our clubhouse. We were honored to have PA State President Kathleen Diulus, PA State Irish Historian Brianna Curran, and some of our sisters from Maire Drumm, Division 3, in attendance. We thank all of them for joining us on such a beautiful occasion. During Mass, each member of the congregation was given a yellow rose to present to Mary. It was a gorgeous presentation, so much so that Fr. Caesar shared his connection to Ireland with us and his plans for a large celebration to St. Patrick next year! Will update with any details when they become available!



In the spirit of Our Lady, we collected food donations for the Patrician Society.

Lastly, during our September meeting, Jeanne Anderson was recognized by our Division for receiving her degree. Our Vice President, Anne Gabor, presented a gift to Jeanne during the meeting.



## **Division #21 ~ Castle Shannon ~ Allegheny County**

We had a busy summer volunteering and gathering together for food, fellowship and prayer and doing their best to model the motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Several members attended the St. Anne Novena held July 18<sup>th</sup>-July 26 at St. Paul of the Cross Church. The novena is a much-anticipated and is well attended by parishioners and LAOH members who come together asking for St. Anne's Blessings on families, noting in prayer "My family is the small community where I live through a succession of joys and pains. It is, as it were, my home church."

On Aug. 10, several members volunteered to work at the Jessie Games, an annual event created by one of the Division members, Clare Ansberry Smith, to raise funds for Catholic Charities youth programs in memory of her daughter.

Members are faithful supporters of the event, offering prayers for its success, sponsoring families to attend and volunteering. Division president Trish Conley helped run the bingo tables. Member Mary Ann Raymer, brought her racing dog and racing pig game, which is always a big hit with the kids, and was helped by Anne Duffy and Virginia Gates.

Peggy Bond helped at the T-shirt table, distributing free T-shirts to the children. *More than 350 people attended the event, including volunteers.*





*Division 21 members gathered for their annual summer picnic at the home of Eileen O'M'ley in August. Eileen has been graciously hosting members at her home for years. Her mother, Jean, who has been an LAOH member for 75 years, attended. Members brought dishes and desserts. The tradition is a wonderful way to end the summer!*



### **Division #39 ~ Philadelphia County**

*On Wednesday, June 12, we held our June meeting.*

*Members brought baby shower items and monetary donations for the Philadelphia March for Life Mass and Walk that will be held at our Philadelphia Cathedral. St. Peter and Paul, on June 22.*

*After the general meeting, we enjoyed A potluck meal together as a kick off to the summer break.*

*Hoping you all have a safe and happy summer!*



*On Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, we held Our Lady of Knock' Mass at Father Judge Memorial Chapel*





**Division #1~ Berkshire ~ Berks County**  
 We gathered to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Bonnie Collins, Maureen Caherly , Mary Pearsall, Maryanne Welch ,Bryn Weckel, and Merilyn Merilyn Carey Donaldson

Several of us journeyed to Jim Thorpe to attend the Rope Mass ~ what a moving experience!



Coming together is so special, especially when we gather for a baby shower for Mary's Shelter.



Anne McHugh, Rita Wise, Maryanne Welch, Mary Pearsall, Maureen Caherly , and Merilyn Donaldson

*Bonnie Collins was thrilled to represent our Division and State at the National Convention and witness our very own MaryAnn Lubinsky become President!*



MISNEACH

Pronounced  
Mish-nock

COURAGE



## Division #23 ~ Allegheny County Celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On a beautiful night in June we gathered to celebrate 25 years and  
to look forward to 25 more!



“May love and laughter  
light your days and warm  
your hearth and home.”

Irish Blessing



## Division #11 ~ Allegheny

A number of our members went to the National Convention in August and had a great time- they are already looking forward to Omaha in 2026.



The Division is getting ready to host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Monte Carlo on October 19<sup>th</sup>



**MONTE CARLO**  
*Night*

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 19, 2024**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.**

Salvatore's Event Center  
5001 Curry Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

**TICKET \$65**  
(includes dinner, buffet, open bar, and casino games)

**CONTACT:**  
Shirley Sestric | 412-370-4127  
shirleysestric@gmail.com

WE ACCEPT cash or check  
MAIL TO:  
371 Knoxville Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15211

TRY YOUR LUCK WITH THE  
LADIES OF LAOH  
DIVISION 11!

**GRAND PRIZE  
OF \$1,000!**

On October 26 we will be celebrating the life of Sarah "Sally" Ann Mains, Sally served as president of Division 11, Allegheny County Board President, and PA State Board President. All are welcome to attend.






The Sisters of LAOH Division 11  
invite you to join us as we celebrate the life of our Sister

**Sarah "Sally" Ann Mains**  
(February 16, 1942 - July 30, 2024)  
With a Memorial Mass  
**Saturday, October 26, 2024**  
10:00 am  
**St. Patrick Church**  
17<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Celebrant: Rev. Nicholas S. Vaskov



After Mass please join us at  
**Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle**  
2329 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



## Division #1 ~ Maryellen Everett ~ Bristol

Through out the month of May we hosted a Diaper Drive and collected baby items such as diapers, wipes, baby soaps and sunscreens. We collected all items at our May Membership meeting, all items were donated to the Levittown Catholic Social Services.



Over the summer we hosted five Crash Events to say thank you for their support in our Irish Potato Fundraisers.

On May 11th we went to Broad Street Brewing.



June 9<sup>th</sup> we went to AOH Division 1 Bristol



June 15<sup>th</sup> we visited Neshaminy Creek Brewing.



July 20th we crashed Odd Login Brewing



August 11th we went to Dads Hat Distillery.



At our June Membership Meeting on June 9th we welcomed 7 new members, Kelly Helbling, Kathleen Koch, Jackie Casey, Erin Hurley, Christine Vecchiore, Joanne Hoyer, Denise Listner.

On June 23rd we participated in a local cultural event, Celtic Heritage Day in Bristol PA. There were lots of different vendors, live music and even some Irish Dance performances.



We celebrated Christmas in July on July 14th with our members. It was a great day had by all, music, food and we even did a White Elephant.

The Ladies who attended had a wonderful time at the 2024 National Convention. We appreciate the dedication of our delegates and commitment to the work of our order. Thank you Patty Delaney, Karen Dopson, Kathy Harbison, Ruth Sproehle, and Brianna Curran for your service to our Division during convention meetings, committee meetings, and additional activities that supported the growth of the Division and the LAOH order.



We are also proud to have the first Bucks County members elected to the National Board. Congratulations Brianna Curran for being elected as the National Catholic Action officer for 2024-2026. We know you will serve the National membership well! Another Congratulations to Brianna for receiving the President's Award from National President Marilyn Madigan. So very very proud of you!

We celebrated Our Lady of Knock at Mass at St Marks Church on August 17th. A few of our Little Ladies even got to present the gifts during Mass.

The Maryellen Everett, Bucks County Division 1 is very proud to celebrate their 25th Anniversary on September 19, 2024! We appreciate and thank our founding members Karen Dopson, Sharon Hartnett, Mary McDermott, and Helen Romano for their 25 years of membership. The membership is growing steadily and has 156 members as of September 2024. The membership is involved in membership meetings, community events, cultural events, and local fundraising. It has been a great 25 years and we are looking for the next 25 years



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

*We celebrate Our Lady of Knock at St. Elizabeth's on Saturday, August 24th*



*We installed two new members this Summer ~ Welcoming Colleen J. and Catherine B.*

*Throughout the summer, we continued filling our Purses, increasing our donation to 2, xxx since November 2016.*

*Our amazing Mary Marshall continued making mats for the homeless too!*

*We look forward to a busy fall including a celebrating the Shower of Roses with the Carmelites of Allentown at the end of September, our Sister Safety class which will inform of Pennsylvania self-defense laws, alert to situational awareness, and provide self-defense techniques in November. Anyone is welcome to attend and bring along a friend, daughter, or granddaughter. And of course, we always look forward to volunteering at Wreaths Across America Day.*



## ***Degree Team Information***

### **PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM**

*On Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> the LAOH Philadelphia Tara Degree Team held Elections and our Board of Officers were unanimously and happily voted in to serve another term.*

*The swearing in ceremony took place immediately following the Elections and the Oath was administered by Past PA State President, Ellen McCrane.*

*The rest of the evening was spent enjoying each other's company, partaking in a delicious potluck dinner and discussing plans for our upcoming 25th Silver Anniversary as a Degree Team.*

*What a lovely evening spent together!*

*Congratulations and Thanks to our Officers for their continued service, especially Director Maureen who always makes our get togethers so fun!*



*Here pictured left to right is PSP Ellen McCrane, Secretary Nancy Dugan, Director Maureen Dougherty Brown, Guardian (immediate past State President) Maria Gallagher. Not pictured, Treasurer, Alice Murray.*



*LAOH Philadelphia Tara Degree Team, not all as some unfortunately couldn't make the meeting*

*.We be conferring degrees on December 1, 2024 at Roman Catholic High School.  
Details to follow*

*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.*

*“Getting to Know You”*

**Who better than our new National President!**

**MaryAnn Lubinsky**

**Please enjoy learning a little more about this month's featured member  
Due to scheduling this will be in the next Newsletter.**

*A 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!**



**With the start of fall, many consider this the beginning of the year's second half.  
What are you looking forward to in the second half of this year?**

**Sister Kathleen Mary Smith, RSM ~ Chaplain** ~ Fall days encourage me to be still and gaze at nature in all her amazing beauty. I feel incomplete unless I take a drive just to take in the richness of the artistry of nature and thank our Creator God.

**Kathleen Diulus ~ President** ~ *The colors! No place is more beautiful than Pennsylvania in the fall.*

**Carolyn Killion ~ Vice President** ~ I am excited for a fresh start. While many feel the New Year is a time for new resolutions and goals, I have always found fall to be that time. It's the start of a new school year, cooler weather and beautiful scenery. The perfect time for new projects and possibilities.



**Patti Flaus ~ Secretary** ~ I've recently renewed my subscription to a genealogy site and am sharing the deluxe package with a cousin on my Dad's side. We've been building the family tree, filling in the blanks on my paternal, non-Irish side. It's been illuminating & fun, accessing information from overseas and learning so much more about both sides of my family. I'm also looking forward to the fall holidays, each in their own time. I can't reconcile Christmas decorations in the stores when summer ends.

**Carole Cooney-Syzdek ~ Treasurer** ~. 1. Hiking and riding to view gorgeous, glistening leaves as nature individualizes their beauty.

2. Golfing when cool instead of during the 90s heat.
3. Volunteering my time at autumn fundraisers; i.e., Pumpkinfest, Cinderella's Closet, etc.
4. Halloween, my favorite, complete with parties, dances and costumes
5. Finally, after 35 years, joining my husband and many of our friends by becoming a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) #695.
6. Autumn vacation with my husband.
7. Christmas masses, our choir which also includes my husband, family dinner and festivities as we ring in 2025.
8. Most importantly, continued good health and our continued strong Christian faith.

Happy and Blessed autumn to all of my LAOH Sisters!

**Brianna M. Curran ~ Historian** ~ Fall 2024 is going to be one that I remember for the rest of my life. Nick and I will be getting married on Saturday, October 19th. We are looking forward to our mass at St. Mark Church and celebrating with our friends and family! I will say that all of the Hibernian experiences has made planning the wedding much easier working with timelines, vendors, music, and more! The rest of the fall I will enjoy getting back to "normal" starting up our Irish History Book Club and becoming more comfortable as the National Catholic Action Officer.

**Shirley Sestric ~ Catholic Action** ~ I'm looking forward to spring cleaning in the fall. My husband, Gary, and I have lived in our house for 30 years and accumulated many things that I have stored unnecessarily in bins in the basement. Everything from decades of old bills and tax documents that needed to be shredded to my parents' broken decorations, which I felt I couldn't part with. With Gary's help this September, I plan to complete this task successfully over the next few months.

**Maria Gallagher ~ Immediate Past President** ~ I genuinely don't like to see summer end, but when fall is upon us, I become excited about the many things to come.

The leaves on the trees turn from green to unique shades of orange, red, golden yellow, and brown. A cool breeze replaces the hot summer days and nights. But probably the thing that excites me the most is thoughts of warm cider, candy apples, and pumpkin carving. The nights become longer, so I find more time to relax under a blanket and read a good book. Now, what comes next is not always very favorable to me. I'm not a fan of ice, snow, and bitter cold winds, but living in a place that encounters all four seasons, I've learned to appreciate the beauty in each. Happy Autumn to All.

**Kathleen Varady ~ FFAI and Education**~ I love the Fall! It's a beautiful, colorful, calm precursor to a cold and snowy winter, and a new beginning for our Division. It's a time of anticipation for fresh ideas, new projects, and hopefully new faces. It's the time to reunite with our LAOH family and plan for more good deeds and adventures, sparking excitement for the year ahead.

**Maura O'Donnell Roszyk ~ Publicity** ~It is the start of the holiday season ~ Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas ~ the fun of decorating, celebrating, and gathering with family and friends!

**Kalyn Populo ~ Webmaster** ~ PLS (pumpkin spice lattes), my short trip to NYC to see Bernadette Petters at Carnegie Hall, jeans & sweater weather, and Audra McDonald playing Mama Rose in the Revival of Gypsy (The greatest musical) which I will see the first performance of on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Past State Presidents**

**Mary Ann Amesbury:** Cool weather, colored leaves and Notre Dame football.

**Bonnie Collins:** This topic is challenging to address because spring is my favorite season, followed by summer. I like being warm! Fall does offer some good things. I love nature's fall colors as they paint a magnificent landscape. Sunny, crisp days and blue skies are invigorating. I love changing my food choices for the cooler months. Soups and stews are warming, and I look forward to apple and pumpkin pastries. I love the change to warm sweaters and jackets, but I don't care for the cold weather colors like black, brown, beige, and maroon. I love to wear bright colors like greens, blues, and yellows.

The second half of the year is more time to spend with family. I anxiously await Thanksgiving and Christmas and the liturgies during Advent and Christmas. Bring on the Christmas trees, candles, cards, carols, and decorations! It's sounding more appealing. I guess I'll survive while anticipating spring.

**Rae DiSpaldo:** Autumn, with its return to routine and the excitement of football and family Sunday dinners, is a season I eagerly look forward to. The anticipation of the upcoming holiday season adds to this joy. I dread winter's bitter cold and drabness, especially once the snow is dirty, so I treasure the vibrant colors of nature and the joy of caring and sharing that defines Autumn for me.

**Maureen Lavelle:** Love the cooler temperatures, changing leaves and Fall is my vacation time.

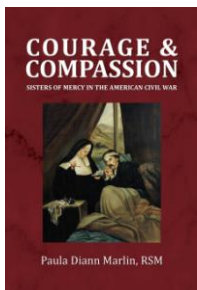
**Ellen McCrane:** I am looking forward to the fall season because I am getting very tired of 99-degree days in the Philadelphia area! Fortunately, I got to the Jersey Shore a few times over the summer, which was a relief. I love the Fall Holidays, including both Halloween and Thanksgiving.



### **Board Business**

#### **Chaplin ~ Sister Kathleen Smith**

*I highly recommend the book [Courage and Compassion: Sister of Mercy in the American Civil War](#). This fantastic story was published on October 8th by Palmetto Publishing. You can purchase it through this link on Amazon ~ [Courage and Compassion: Sisters of Mercy in the American Civil War: Marlin, Paula DiAnn: 9798822941106: Amazon.com: Books](#).*



*"This is the story of the Sisters of Mercy's selfless service amidst the chaos and danger of the war. Sisters from six Union States nursed the wounded in hospitals, tents, and on hospital ships as well as prisoners in Midwestern camps. Sisters in four Confederate states tended to sick and wounded men of both sides despite the war engulfing their surroundings. Motivated by the love of God and a commitment to service, the Sisters adapted to chaotic situations, endured hardships, and risked their safety to serve others in need. It shows the power of kindness and dedication in the darkest times." ~ Sister Paula Diann Marling, RSM*

#### **Secretary ~ Patti Flaus**

† One of my big takeaways from the National Convention is that I learned several emails sent to the delegates from the National Secretary did not arrive due to incorrect emails.

A few of those addresses were taken directly from the annual membership reports.

The people completing the membership reports **must verify that the information** they submit is correct

and not just use the information from the previous year.

I will be stressing that with next year's membership report.

† When sending your reports to me for distribution, **please send them as a Word document or a PDF**. Using one of those two programs will make it much easier to distribute and read. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help using either one.

### *Treasurer ~ Carole Cooney-Syzdek*

I had the pleasure to attend the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in August, 2024, with our JFK #2, Pottsville, Division Catholic Action Officer, Rose Ann Petrusky, and Division Historian, Betty Murphy, to experience our very own Division President, Mary Ann Lubinsky, become LAOH National President. I also had the privilege to serve as Marshall during the Convention.

I participated in both Division 1, Lehigh Valley, Lady of Knock Mass at St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church, Allentown, on August 24, 2024, and my JFK, Division 2, Pottsville, Lady of Knock Mass at Holy Cross Church, New Philadelphia, on August 27, 2024, during the 53rd birthday of our Division.

### *Historian ~ Briana Curran*

We are fully into Irish History Contest Season!

This year's theme is the **Golden Age of Irish Literature**.

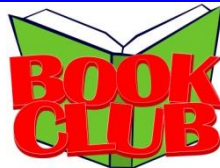
Last year, two of the four winners were from Pennsylvania, so let's try to match that again!

- † **Student submissions are due to the local LAOH Division by November 15, 2024**
- † Division judges must submit student Division level winners to State Board by Dec. 15, 2024
- † State Board judges must submit State level winners to National Historian by Feb 15, 2025
- † National winners will be announced by March 31, 2025
- † Some guidelines for judging:

- † LAOH Historian Rules for judging student entries: [https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2\\_2024-Irish-Historian-Rules.docx](https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2_2024-Irish-Historian-Rules.docx)

- † Score sheet for LAOH Judges: [https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/5\\_2024\\_LAOH\\_SCORESHEET\\_Irish\\_History-Judging\\_-1.xlsx](https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/5_2024_LAOH_SCORESHEET_Irish_History-Judging_-1.xlsx)

- † Judging Category definitions: [https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/4\\_2024\\_CATEGORIES\\_Definitions-of-categories-1.docx](https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/4_2024_CATEGORIES_Definitions-of-categories-1.docx)



- † Details regarding the the Irish History Book Club will be coming soon.  
Looking for a first meeting date in November!

### *Catholic Actions ~ Shirley Sestric*

Something to note from the National Convention, **the annual Catholic Action report will be due** from the Division to the County, County to the State and State to the National on the **same timeline as other reports**.

Details to follow.

### *Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell Roszyk*

- † When sending your reports to me, **please send them as a Word document or a PDF**. Using one of those two programs will make it much easier, **also pictures as a jpg!**  
Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help with any of these programs.
- † Our state is blessed with very active Divisions. Please, Publicity Ladies, send details and pictures of these wonderful events. You do not need to wait until the Submission period; receiving them throughout the period between Newsletters is wonderfully helpful.
- † All contributions are crucial for our Newsletters

### *Webmaster ~ Kalyn Populo*

- † The **Members Only page** of both the State and National website is **accessible via password**

Email me ~ [palaohwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:palaohwebmaster@gmail.com) or ask your President, should you need it.

† Please help us add to the Calendar

† When sending your reports to me, **please send them as a Word document or a PDF.** Using one of those two programs will make it much easier, also pictures as a jpg!  
Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help with any of these programs.



*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*



### **Former President Sarah (Sally) Mains**

Sally was a past Division, County, and State President, additionally she served two terms on the National Board and an original Lady Bamba of the Claddagh Degree Team

**Mary Helen Gannon**

Division Maud Gonne

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.*



Marie Nealis, 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.



Colleen Bower's husband as he deals with medical issues.



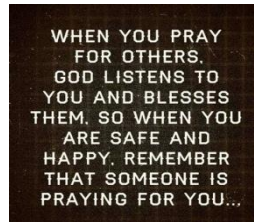
Sammi Smith of Division One~ Lehigh Valley ~ as they face medical issues.



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.  
 Lastly, let us keep in our prayers and hearts all who are dealing with the aftermath of the recent storms.



## *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](mailto: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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

