

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Dog Days of Summer

"Dog Days of Summer" the hottest forty days from July 3rd-August 11th, countless would agree that this summer has been a scorcher. I, like so many, find refuge indoors during the day and relief of a cool breeze in the early evening hours, as I sit outdoors.

Forty hot days can be a long time when a 5-degree temperature change determines whether you hit the beach, open a book or lounge on the couch.

Many are determined to enjoy their summer no matter what the temperatures.

Fourth of July celebrations, summer vacations, or just visiting family and friends has become a tradition for many. What would summer be without cheering our favorite baseball team, heading to the beach, or attacking a steaming pile of Maryland Blue Crabs?

"Dog Days" can also be a perfect time to learn something new. Needlepoint and watercolors were my choice. What I did not expect was the passion I put into learning my new hobbies was my way of working through the recent loss of fellow LAOH member and dear friend, Stacie Guerin.

With each brush stroke or needle stitch, I found myself reflecting on Stacie and the legacy she left behind. I was blessed to have Stacie's friendship and mourn what she could have achieved if things had been different, "but it is the purpose of the Lord that will prevail".

Wishing MD LAOH ladies a beautiful summer holiday... See you in the Fall.

-Kathy Norris-

Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)

-LAOH Website

Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms. There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene. You can also find us on <http://www.facebook.com/marylandlaoh>



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Calendar

July

August

Aug.: 7-11 AOH-LAOH National Convention, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL., <https://ladiesaoh.com>

Aug.: 18 Our Lady of Knock Mass, 1:30, St. Agnes Church, 5422 Old Frederick Road, Catonsville. Lunch details/ Flier

September

Sept. 7: LAOH State Board, 10 AM, Location TBD

Sept. 22: Carroll County Div. 1, 2 PM, St. Bartholomew Church, "Precious Heritage" Irish Band Concert

October

Oct. 15: Harford County Div. 2 Rosary Night, 6 PM

Oct. 19: Harford County Div. 1, Bingo, Sat. 12-4, lunch at 12, St. Mark's Parish Hall, Fallston, \$30, Flier

November

Nov. 16: Anne Arundel County Div. 1 Themed Tea, Seelos Hall, St. John Neumann Church, Details to follow

Cultural Corner

KALA by Colin Walsh

LONG ISLAND by Colm Tobin,

sequel to BROOKLYN

WHISPERS ON MAIN STREET by

Marie O'Connor

THE SEARCHER by Tana French,

Book Club selection for July 30

RSVP

miskellycox@verizon.net

-Joanna Cox



Gatherings

Recently, a friend presented me with a beautiful white statue of Our Lady of Knock to commemorate my mom's death. After she presented it to me, she commented: "It is such a strange apparition. I can't wrap my head around that apparition" because there was no message. The apparition is not hard for me to understand or appreciate. It points us to the Book of Revelation along with saints who cared for Mary throughout her life. Particularly, this apparition recalls my roots. My father was born nearby, and my mother's parents grew up within 10 miles of Knock Parish.

On August 21, 1879, fifteen people saw the vision that lasted two hours of the Blessed Virgin with hands folded in prayer, standing with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist flanking her. The three stood in front of an altar with the Lamb on it surrounded by angels. There was no message--no words

given to her people...only a quiet presence.



When I was little, I didn't need my mother to make small talk with me. All I really needed was for her to be

nearby in case I needed her. Every child knows a mother's silence is powerful. But we should inquire why Mary remained silent at Knock. Did not the Irish deserve an explanation why they lost 1 million people to starvation and another million to emigration and never return to their native land in the 1840s and 1850s?

Words might have helped, but I doubt it. Mary is silent at the side of the Cross. Being there meant more to Jesus. Likewise, being there meant more to the Irish. The beauty of the vision is her proximity to the altar. Mary's life and mission is to bring us closer to her Son, the source of all mercy. Therefore, mercy and Mary have a sublime connection. It is in silent prayer after recognizing our troubles that we can recognize the mercy of God

Even though the apparition took place on August 21, 1879, Pius X assigned the feast of Our Lady of Knock on August 17, 1879. Who knows the reason? However, we can remember Mary throughout August: August 5: St. Mary Major; August 15: Assumption; August 22: Queenship of Mary. But the Irish have two dates to recall the silent woman who remains quietly near us. Our Lady of Knock, pray for us.

Father Frain, SJ, LAOH State Chaplain

Worcester County, Division 1

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July. The



beach is crowded but the weather has been fantastic. Come and visit.

April: Maureen O'Brien, Vice President, opened the meeting due to the absence of President, Ann Cottingham. Ann was excused due to an illness in her family. Opening prayers were said for family and friends including George Hogan, Annette's husband, John Cottingham, Ann's husband and Ann Rubino. Longtime sister, Marie Campbell died, and her funeral was attended by members on April 18. Maureen gave the ladies an update for the card party, it will be on October 17th, 10am, tickets \$30. Annette has volunteered to be in charge of the kitchen, replacing Cathy Bocci. Historian, Maureen Morley read a piece about James Whistler. Our division sponsors two scholarships. The essays will be read this week by the committee.

New Business: Bea Gibson has the tickets for the State Board fundraiser, \$20 each. The National LAOH sponsors an Irish writing contest. We have given this information to local schools. Dottie Duval volunteered to find a restaurant for our June luncheon.

May: Opening prayers were said by Ann Cottingham for sisters that are ill and again for George Hogan and John Cottingham and Anna Rubino. George is now recovering at Harrison House rehab and John is doing much better at home. Annette and Ann sent thanks for all for the prayers, masses and cards.

Old Business: Bea Gibson is selling the \$20 ticket for the \$2000 fund raiser. Rene announced that we had two winners for the LAOH Maryland scholarship, which will be given at Steven Decatur graduation in June. Thank you cards were read from St. Vincent de Paul society and Joseph House for the boxes of cereal that we donated last month.

New Business: Maureen gave out the tickets to be sold for the annual card party in October. Kathleen Norris requested time to discuss the LAOH state fundraiser. She also spoke about National and the changes in verbiage that they are suggesting. We will take part in a Zoom meeting when it is scheduled. Our June luncheon will be at Ocean Pines Yacht Club on June 12. Thanks to Dottie for making the reservations.

June: Our annual summer luncheon will be held on June 12th,

- Ann Cottingham, President-

Harford County, Division 2

Two of our division members, Jean Martin and Debbie Buck, marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Baltimore. Division President Mary Asaki also attended the Annapolis Parade on March 17. Mary also attended the Veteran of the Year Banquet on March 23 as part of the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary.

Mary Asaki and Debbie Buck attended the LAOH/St. John's Old Tenth Ward fundraiser at Jerry D's on April 21. Raffle tickets were sold for baskets of cheer.

Our division's May Crowning Devotion to Mary was held on May 21. Rebecca Asaki, a member of our division who lives in New York, joined us and really supported our singing. The May Crowning went smoothly and was lovely. We were all pleased. Pat Zaccari and Ellen Frank joined us along with members of Thelma Graziano's family. The May Crowning was dedicated to our departed sisters, including Thelma. We also collected baby items for the Gabriel Project Outreach and supplies for soldiers and veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

We held our last meeting before the summer break on June 18. Our next event will be Rosary Night on Tuesday, October 15, at 6 PM and all are invited.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy summer.

Respectfully submitted,

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Harford County, Division 1

Once again, our Catholic Action Officer, Chris Brown, was able to deliver our division's many donations of baby items, toiletries, food and household items to St. Mark's Outreach Center in Fallston.

Many of us enjoyed an end of the year meeting and smorgasbord luncheon at the Gunpowder Lodge in June and were happy to have Father Simmons join us.

We are planning an August committee meeting for our upcoming Bingo on October 19th which will include a buffet luncheon. More details to come.

We look forward to being back together in September and hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

Stay cool and safe in this sweltering weather!!

- Laurie Hauser, Reporter



Baltimore City, Division 1

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

We support Marian House, a holistic, healing community for women and their children who need housing and support services. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7pm, at Squire's restaurant. We invite you to join us in helping women in need in the City of Baltimore and celebrating our Irish history and culture

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

The members of LAOH Cecil County Division 1 met on May 1st for their regular meeting and annual "Baby Shower." Our ladies enjoyed a presentation by Tracy from the Cecil County Pregnancy Center. Tracy gave us the numbers so far from January 1 to April 11, 2024: 899 appointments, 998 visits, 45 tests, 32 ultrasounds, 2010 outfits were provided, and 5567 diapers were provided.

Of the 63 abortion inquiries made, 17 of those made appointments, 12 of those kept their appointments, and 4 chose to keep their baby.

Refreshments were served following the presentation and loads of baby shower gifts were donated.

Next, we gathered on May 22 for a wonderful retreat at Immaculate Conception Church led by Father Rich and our own Cheryl Nickle. The special day included Mass, workshops, lunch, and loads of opportunities to enhance our spirituality. To finish out the month, we finalized our order for LAOH. Our items were delivered in June, in time for us to don our new duds for Our Lady of Knock Mass in August.

Cecil County Division 1 also joined the Knights of Columbus in purchasing bricks and a new statue for the proposed courtyard at Immaculate Conception Church commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Church.

-JoAnne Bierly, Reporter

Howard County, Division 1

Summer is passing quickly and we suspect not only ourselves but the grass, trees and plants will breathe a sigh of relief when the "dog days" are over. Despite the heat and humidity, St. John the Evangelist's June 29 Flea Market was successful. The proceeds of the event's registration/space rental fees are being shared equally between our Division and the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Conference. This summer we've been blessed to be able to donate cases of formula and baby care items to the Columbia Pregnancy Center thanks to the generosity of a local pediatrician. We are excited that our secretary, Mary Laura Shick, added a beautiful little girl to her crew of two boys four months ago.

Although this is our summer hiatus, we are hoping to meet socially once or twice before resuming meetings in the fall. Unfortunately, in September we will be losing our meeting site so we'll need to find a new location and time to gather. Our members won't be attending the National Convention, but we

were represented at the pre-Convention Zoom meetings for the Catholic Social Justice Education and Constitution Committees. We can't wait to hear about the Convention proceedings. Some members will be attending the Our Lady of Knock Mass in August and Carroll County's Irish Concert in September. We'll be distributing the Irish History Writing Contest information soon.



May your presence bring peace to those around you!

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

. We are hoping everyone is enjoying their Summer so far. *It has been a scorcher!* Our Division started our Summer break with our annual Retreat at Aisling House. Sisters Eileen, Mary Therese, and Cecilia provided us with a beautiful Retreat. Our topic was "Our Journey With God." We also enjoyed a wonderful Luncheon afterwards. We had a short meeting in which we made the decision to make donations to various



charities in the total amount of \$1500.00. In June we also concluded our Patriotic Wagon/Picnic Basket Raffle. Mike Stitcher from St. Bartholomew's

Parish was the winner. We are so appreciative of all the support this parish gives us.

One of our members is attending the National AOH/LAOH Convention. We wish Carole lafrate safe travels and hope she enjoys the Convention. Our members are looking forward to attending the Lady of Knock Mass in August.

Our division has also planned a Concert at St Bartholomew Church on September 22 @2pm. The "Precious Heritage" Irish Band will provide music. We will be accepting Free-will Offerings to support the "Fr. Michael Roach Scholarship Fund." We hope many of you will join us for a halfway to St Patrick's Day Concert.

Respectfully Submitted

-Mary Beth Connolly, President

Baltimore County, Division 14

We had a trunk full of generous donations from our "Baby Shower"



Denny and Rita delivered them to the Mercy Medical NICU. The staff is so appreciative.



We are collecting items for hygiene care packages that will be distributed to women offenders in jail by one of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Stay cool and I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

-Katie McCune, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Time is flying by for all of us. I would like all of you to pray for Pat Ragan. She is experiencing health issues.

I have talked to Mary Helene Miller, our member in North Carolina. She is doing well. She tells me she feels great and is enjoying her family especially her grandchildren.

We continue to look for new members – if you know of anyone who would love to join our division please provide me



with contact information.

Our 2024 fundraiser is a collection of gift cards. The chances remain the same at \$2.00 a chance or six chances for \$5.00. You can send your request for chances to Pat Zaccari at 14100 Blenheim Rd North Phoenix, MD 21131 or email Pat at vangoghatphoenix@aol.com.

May God bless us all.

-Pat Zaccari, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

Happy Summer! Hope everyone has a pool or a nice cool spot to relax in during this extra hot July weather...

We are donating food, clothing and other needed items to the Benedictine Society of Baltimore City. The Benedictine Society is starting a new chapter for St Benedict's Church which was closed last October 2023. The Society is continuing the charitable services in the neighborhood such as Benedicts Pantry that is open the 3rd Saturday each month which distributes food, clothing, baby items, and other necessities to neighbors in need. They are presently working with the city fire department to distribute smoke alarms to neighbors who don't have them. The majority of the homes in the neighborhood are row homes and are in dire need of smoke detectors.

Our May meeting fell on Memorial Day so we postponed it a week and enjoyed our meeting at Chef Polino's which was a pleasant change.

Michele and I are looking forward to attending the National Convention in Orlando in August and Our Lady of Knock mass the following week.

Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away, but never forget to remember the blessings that come each day!!

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

In January and June, we welcomed 2 new members – Cindy Stein Houck and Anne Arnold.

We are excited to continue to grow our membership but sadly lost one of our long-time members, Joanne Wasson. Joanne passed peacefully on July 2, 2024, survived by her husband of 67 years, Bob, 6 children, 16 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. As a beloved member of our sisterhood, she will be missed.

Planning for our annual fundraiser in November is well underway. Our wonderful co-chairs, Kate Carr and Lyn Tilden have been working hard to coordinate this year's event. We are, once again, hosting an afternoon tea. In addition to a beautiful spread of tasty treats, there will be a Basket of Cheer raffle, Lucky Leprechaun, and a photo scavenger hunt. More details and ticket sales will begin in the fall. We look forward to seeing many of you on November 16th!

In our motto,

-Dee McCarthy, President-

In Memorium-

Joanne Wasson, Anne Arundel County, Division 1



Let Us Pray

Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals, as well as our deceased sisters, that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.