

2025 Interim Board Meeting- 9/13/25- Catholic Action Report

It has truly been a privilege and an honor to be elected to the National LAOH Board and to serve our membership. Even though I have served on the board for two terms, I am learning something new every week and sometimes daily. It has been just over a year since I took my oath on August 10th. I take it to heart that “I will be faithful to the members of the Order, and assist my sisters in sickness and distress, as far as it lies in my power to do so.” I attempt to reach out when I see a natural disaster unless I have been updated by another Board Member first. Please know that I pray daily for you as well as my Tuesday prayer group. If anyone is interested in joining us, we meet via Zoom every Tuesday at 8pm EST. I love that I have had sisters from PA, RI, FL, DC, and I know more over the last 5 years. We started during Covid when we could not meet, and we have kept it going with 5-15 ladies depending on schedules. It truly is a form of comfort, piece of mind, and sisterhood seeing each other almost every week!

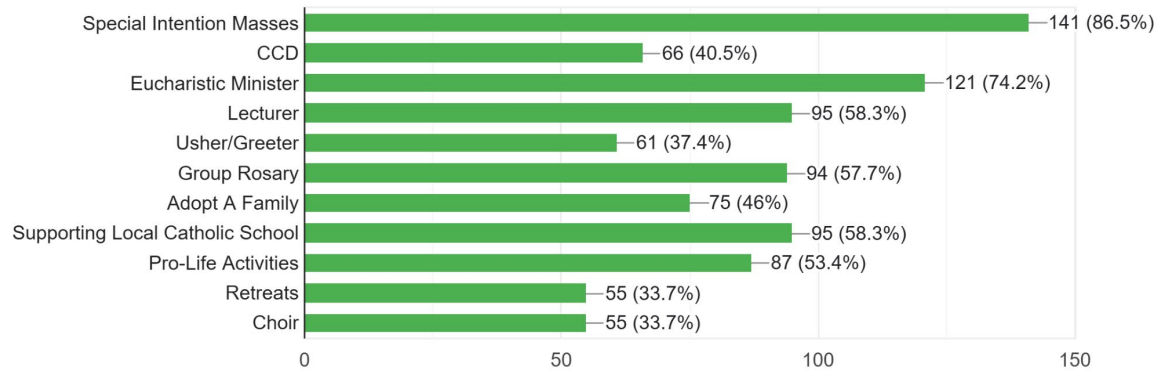
In August 2024, I promoted the importance of giving blood. I recommended finding a local blood drive, and if possible organize a blood drive with your division. It is still a very important cause as it can help so many in need from newborns to the elderly and everyone in between! If you have questions about organizing a blood drive, please let me know and I would be more than happy to provide you with the information and resources.

On Saturday, September 21st, 2024 in Washington DC., I had the privilege of being involved in the Centennial Commemoration for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument. The mass was beautifully organized by Marilyn Madigan held at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle followed by a rededication of the Monument and wayside marker unveiling. The Cathedral was absolutely beautiful and I learned that the cathedral was the site of the Nov. 25, 1963, funeral Mass for slain U.S. President John F. Kennedy. I highly recommend stopping at the monument the next time you visit Washington D.C.

I truly appreciate everyone who completed the Catholic Action Report for 2024. Here are three of the charts from the Annual Catholic Action Report:

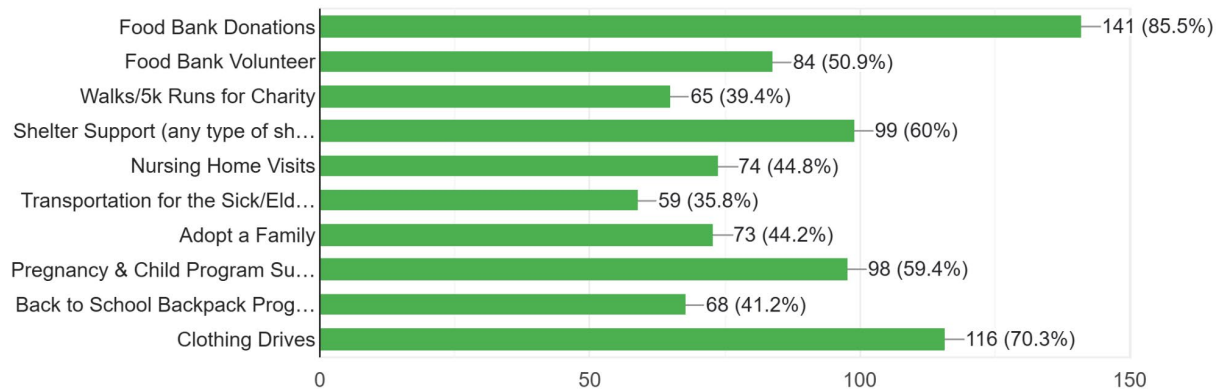
Please mark any of the activities below that apply (please use your right arrow key to see all options available for selection)

163 responses



Please mark any of the activities below that apply (please use your right arrow key to see all options available for selection).

165 responses



Please mark if you have provided a donation for any of the National Catholic Action Charities.

123 responses



On Friday February 28, 2025, the National LAOH was represented for the 20th Anniversary of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. They had keynote speaker Monsignor James P. Shea, who is the President of the University of Mary. It was the first time the LAOH was formally represented at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, and we look forward to attending in 2026 to continue to network with other Catholic organizations. We had a table that displayed information on Project Saint Patrick, Brigid's Hearth, LAOH membership applications, and information on the LAOH.

On April 10th, 2025, I attended Ireland's Future Gala Dinner in Philadelphia where we listened to former Taoiseach Leo Varadarackx speak on a United Ireland. The LAOH was well represented by three National Officers plus State Officers from Delaware and Pennsylvania. On April 11th, I had the privilege to take Father Gary Donegan from Belfast around Philadelphia. We visited the Liberty Bell and walked up the Philadelphia Art Museum Steps to see the Rocky statue. It was an amazing afternoon and evening showing him around Philadelphia and listening to his life experiences during the Troubles up to current events. He spoke about how the Liberty Bell is an international symbol of independence and how it has inspired those around the world! We have such a rich and beautiful history. Sometimes it takes someone visiting to remind you of what amazing treasures that you have in your own "backyard".

I had the pleasure of attending the LAOH New Jersey's State Convention in May, the LAOH Ohio State Convention in June, and the Pennsylvania State Convention in July. Ladies, I truly appreciate the kindness you showed me and your hospitality was amazing! Convention is a time to come together, renew your passion for the LAOH, and your commitment to your sisters. I loved seeing how much love you have for our order and for each other! And for our new State Catholic Action Officers, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

On June 5th, I attended the Diaspora Roundtable with Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development, Neale Richmond T.D with Kathleen Diulus in Philadelphia. It was a very interactive event where we learned more about local Irish organizations and programs. One main thought that came from the event was that our organizations need to prioritize connecting with each other to cross promote and build stronger relationships where we have common goals. We also thanked the Irish Government for the continued support of the LAOH through the Emigrant Support Programme.

On June 6th, we truly embraced our Motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christin Charity. We had a total of 16 LAOH members play golf in Bucks County Division 1's Annual Golf Outing where the proceeds are used for the AOH's Annual Giving. I appreciate Kathleen Diulus, Maggie Brogan, and Kalyn Populo for traveling and supporting this annual golf outing. I started golfing a few years ago and it has allowed me to meet more of our LAOH sisters plus support amazing Hibernian causes!

On June 14th, I attended the Day of the Rope Mass in Jim Thorpe, PA. It was a rainy Irish day, but the ladies of Carbon County organized a beauty mass and a wonderful luncheon afterwards. to the Molly Maguires, a secret society of Irish coal miners who fought against the oppressive working conditions in Pennsylvania's anthracite coal fields during the 1870s. The mass is held to remember the Molly Maguires, who were hanged in 1877. During this time, miners faced dangerous working conditions, low wages, and discrimination. The Molly Maguires, originally an Irish vigilante group, emerged as advocates for miners' rights.

August 15-17th, I had the opportunity to attend the US GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) Finals in Malvern, PA. It was a great opportunity for our AOH & LAOH brothers and sisters to see us supporting them. And also to talk to individuals about the LAOH and the work that we do in their area, around the country, and in Ireland.

Project Saint Patrick

For the 2024-2025 Project Saint Patrick, the LAOH provided 35 grants in the amount of \$500 each for a total of \$17,500.00. For Q3.2024 and Q4.2024, we have collected \$5,573.00 in donations. For Q1.2025 and Q2.2026, we have collected \$4,764.00 in donations.

On June 25th, 2025, the LAOH & AOH hosted a joint webinar discussing the PSP Program and interviewed a few of the 2024 PSP grant recipients. The webinar included LAOH National President- Mary Ann Lubinsky, AOH National President - Sean Pender, AOH National PSP Chair Kevin J. Delaney, and myself. The video is available on our YouTube channel and the Catholic Action page.

In the past year we have experienced two great losses- Margaret Ann “Peggy” Cooney and Mary Paglione. They were strong, passionate, and great leaders. They truly embodied our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity throughout their lives and were Hibernians that we all should look to emulate. The Past National President Margaret Ann “Peggy” Cooney returned to our Lord on Saturday, October 19th, 2024. The National LAOH Board made a donation of \$500.00 in Peggy’s name for Project Saint Patrick. The Past National President Mary Paglione returned to our Lord on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025. The National LAOH Board made a donation of \$500.00 in Mary’s name for Project Saint Patrick.

The 2025 Project Saint Patrick Grant Application needs to be returned to the Vocation Director by October 17th, 2025. Completed application with recommendation letter should be emailed to both Project St. Patrick Chairs (Brianna Curran & Kevin J. Delaney) by November 1st, 2025.

Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!)

For SOAR! Q3.2024 and Q4.2024, we have collected \$4,090.00 in donations. For Q1.2025 and Q2.2026, we have collected \$3,678.00 in donations.

On June 11th, 2025, the LAOH hosted a webinar interviewing the President of Support Our Aging Religious, Sister Kathleen Lunsmann. We reviewed SOAR!’s mission statement, explained the grant process, provided details on some of the recent grant requests, and answered questions submitted by LAOH members. The video is available on our YouTube channel and the Catholic Action page.

The LAOH has been selected for the Saint Katherine Drexel Award by SOAR! And it will be presented on November 7th, 2025 in Washington, DC.

Humanitarian Fund

For the Humanitarian Fund Q3.2024 and Q4.2024, we have collected \$19,945.00 in donations. For Q1.2025 and Q2.2026, we have collected \$4,610.00 in donations. We have assisted five members for a total of \$13,480.94. We have donated \$3,000.00 to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charlotte, which was the remaining balance of donations noted for Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

During Hurricane Season, please keep me informed on how you and your membership are doing. Please let me know if anyone is impacted by one of the hurricanes. We are a month and a half into hurricane season, which normally ends by November 30th. Please let me know if your area is impacted and we will ask Kim Depeaux to send out a call for financial assistance through the Humanitarian Fund.

Brigid's Hearth

For Q4.2024, we received a very generous donation from Sheila O'Hara Gray in the amount of \$42,726.00. Sheila had made a donation for the Nuns of the Battlefield and the remaining funds were donated to Brigid's Hearth. "They say that angels walk among us, disguised as ordinary people." I am so grateful for Sheila's continuous generosity for the LAOH charities. For Q1.2025 and Q2.2025, we collected \$4,610.00 in donations.

For Brigid's Heath, we are working on the application and I am very excited to present the application for approval during the Interim Board Meeting in Camp Hill this September. We have given one grant to the Saint Joseph the Worker Program for \$1,000.00. The application was submitted by Sister Lisa Breslin from Philadelphia. Sister Lisa shared "Eight young women in the program under Sister Julie's direction live in community in L.A. and minister in various places throughout LA especially to the unhoused there. Their home was decimated by the fire. Needless to say, they lost everything. As part of the program they get a small stipend for food and supplies. A donation to Sister Julie would help the women get back on their feet and back to ministering to the poorest of the poor in the LA area and those impacted by the fires."

We currently support those who have answered God's calling at the beginning of their journey with Project Saint Patrick and we are supporting them at the end of their journey with Support Our Aging Religious. Now we will be supporting them during their journey with Brigid's Hearth.

We have these amazing causes that we support and it is through your hard work and generosity that we are able to provide financial support to our members and those in need! And I want to make sure the correct entity is receiving credit, which is why I stress the importance of using the Donation Form. If you need me to email a copy to you, it is no trouble at all. It is also located on the Catholic Action page of the National LAOH website.

I truly appreciate all of your hard work that makes our organization life changing for so many individuals - whether it is the people we help or showing new members the importance of serving others! In a world where social media can portray a false image, please know that you are making an important impact on your community that has a positive ripple effect that knows no bounds.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

In Our Motto- Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Brianna Curran

National Catholic Action Officer
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.