

Rev Duns, Madame President, LAOH National Board members and Hibernian Sisters:

Thank you for electing me to the National Board to serve as your National Catholic Action Officer. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the LAOH and serve our membership since August 2024. I have enjoyed working with our sisters from across the country where I continue to learn more about your divisions and the amazing impact that you have on your local communities. You truly make this world a better place for those who are in need.

During my term, we have lost many driven, inspiring, and supportive LAOH members. I do not want to list all of our LAOH members in case I miss anyone, but I would like to note the loss of three great leaders- Margaret Ann “Peggy” Cooney, Mary E. Paglione, and Mary M. Ryan. 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 Past National President Mary E. Paglione returned to our Lord on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025. The Past National President Mary M. Ryan returned to our Lord on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025. I know they are watching over us, and guiding us to be the best Hibernians that we can be!

Humanitarian Fund

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Humanitarian Fund. The Humanitarian Fund was established to allow our National Board to be proactive, compared to reactive, in a time of need for our members or disaster area. The Humanitarian Grant Application is available on the Catholic Action page of the National Website. I try my best to reach out to the LAOH State President when I see a hurricane, tornado, wildfire, flooding, or natural disaster in one of the states where we have members. Over my term, the State Presidents have kept me informed, and many times advised that no members were in danger. We do ask that the LAOH State Presidents in the affected areas, please reach out to the National President and National Catholic Action Officer if their area and/or members are impacted to help expedite the grant process. An individual must meet the requirements of a member of the LAOH and live within the defined area of the natural disaster. Each application must request a specific dollar amount and define how the dollars are to be utilized. Each application must be completed in full to be eligible for consideration. Completed applications must be submitted to the Catholic Action Officer ASAP, but no later than 45 days after the event. Every application shall be reviewed by the National President, Immediate Past President, and Catholic Action Officer.

Due to available resources, not every completed application may be approved for funding. However during my term, we have been very fortunate to be able to approve all applications that have met the requirements. We were able to provide eight grants for a total of \$20,180.94. We

have raised \$29,082.00 in donations from July 2024 until June. And I will have an updated amount at the National Convention.

We do not distribute the Humanitarian Fund at the Interim Board Meeting or the National Convention. The next National Catholic Action Officer will have a starting balance for the Humanitarian Fund based on my final deposit of 6/30/2026. Additional information that I provided during my Pre-Convention Committee Meeting that make help divisions when giving to the Humanitarian Fund:

- The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30th.
- The Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 through November 30.
- Tornado season peaks from April through June, with May being the most active month nationally.
- The U.S. wildfire season officially began on May 1st, but elevated fire risk has been present earlier due to climate-driven conditions. While most large fires occur from May through November, the season can extend year-round in some regions, especially with hotter, drier weather pattern

Supporting Our Catholic Religious from the Beginning to the End of their Journey

- *Project Saint Patrick (PSP)* - It assists religious members at the beginning of their religious journey with items such as books, a computer, gas, car insurance, vestments, and many other items.
- *Brigid's Hearth* - It assists religious members during the middle of their religious journey such as a retreat, workshop, class, ministry costs, etc.
- *Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!)* - It assists religious members at the end of their religious journey. We make the donation directly to SOAR! and they handle the grant process. They have funded many wonderful causes through their fundraising efforts.

Project Saint Patrick

As the oldest Irish Catholic lay organizations in the United States and followers of St. Patrick, the AOH and LAOH have created Project St. Patrick as a Catholic Action Program to show our continued loyalty and support of the Church and Her Shepherds. The Irish have always been staunch supporters of the Catholic faith, her priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons.

On June 3rd, I shared the Project Saint Patrick Grant Recipient feedback. If anyone would like a copy, please let me know. Here are two examples of feedback that we received:

- Jaime Hernandez: “The funds I have graciously received from Project St. Patrick help offset the costs of my seminary formation in items like tuition, room and board, a stipend, and more. Since all the costs of my formation are covered by the Diocese of Nashville,

this gift helps lighten the task of raising future priests for the Church and follows Christ's call: "ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Mt. 9:38)."

- Declan Cole: "I would like to thank you sincerely for your generous gift and support in my vocation to the priesthood. My mother is an Irish immigrant and her whole family is still there. I am very grateful as I recently had to renew my car insurance and this helped greatly. Further, I will use these funds to travel to my assignment parish every weekend from the seminary. There I get to preach to the faithful as well as perform baptisms. One last thing I will use my gift for is buying things I need for my ordination. This includes ritual books and oil stocks so that I can faithfully perform the Sacraments this May. Please continue to pray for me, especially for my ordination on May 16th. May God bless you all!"

We are looking to identify your local Bishop and Vocation Director's contact information. We are asking our members to please fill out the Division Diocese Form and return it no later than August 31, 2026: https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026_Division_Diocese_Form.pdf

On January 2nd 2026, I sent an email out regarding an initiative to reach women who have started their spiritual journey to become a nun. In 2022, we received two applications and in 2023, we only received one. In 2024 and 2025, we did not receive any Project Saint Patrick applicants from women pursuing life as a nun. For the 2026 grant application process, we would like to focus on increasing from zero. I am asking the State Catholic Officers to work with your County and Division Officers to identify their local Vocation Director(s) or their Vocation Office contact information. I know this may not be possible in all states, but I am asking you to research and submit by August 31st. Then the PSP Grant Application paperwork can be sent to them.

Please remember the completed application with a recommendation letter from the applicant's vocation director should be emailed to both Project St. Patrick Chairs by November 1st, 2026.

The Project Saint Patrick Cards can be mailed to you upon request. Please note there is no fee to request the cards. The cards can be mailed in sets of 5 or 10. Once a card is used, please mail the donation information card with a check made out to the "LAOH, Inc" to the Catholic Action Officer.

In 2024, LAOH provided 35 grants (\$17,500) and AOH provided grants 37. All applicants who applied in 2024 received a grant. In 2025, LAOH provided 27 grants (\$13,500) and the AOH provided 92 grants. Again all applicants who applied in 2025 received a grant. For 2026, LAOH has raised \$11,365 with donations coming in for June to make at least 23 Grants. I will have an updated amount for Project Saint Patrick fund at the National Convention.

It has been discussed during the National Catholic Action Pre-Convention Committee meeting to move to a donation calendar year of November 1st through October 31st. In doing so it will allow all designated PSP donations made to up until the November 1st to be used for grants. The recommendation was approved by the committee and will be voted on at Convention.

Brigid's Hearth

Brigid's Hearth Grants are intended to provide limited aid to members of the clergy, and men and women in Religious Orders. All application requests must come from individuals who have a relationship with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and submitted to the Catholic Action Officer. The Catholic Action Officer will bring these Applications to the National President and the Brigid's Hearth Committee for approval.

I would like to give a special "THANK YOU!" to Sister Lisa, Sister Kathleen, Marilyn Madigan, Father Ryan Dunns, and Father Christopher Walsh, who have been a wonderful help in the process.

Please see a screenshot of examples why a religious individual would request a Brigid's Hearth grant:

For Which of the Following Do You Seek Support? (Please Check All that Apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Retreat | ☐ Workshop |
| ☐ Class | ☐ Pilgrimage |
| ☐ Ministry costs | ☐ Associated with a Catholic Parish |
| ☐ Community Charity (Local): | ☐ Other |
| ☐ Personal | |

In 2025, we provided two grants in the total of \$1,500.00. In 2024, we started with an extremely generous donation of \$42,726.00. During 2024 through 2026, we have raised an additional \$6,146.00 for a total of \$48,872.00. We do not distribute Brigid's Hearth at the Interim Board Meeting or the National Convention. The next National Catholic Action Officer will have a starting balance for Brigid's Hearth based on my final deposit of 6/30/2026.

Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!)

Support Our Aging Religious, Inc. (SOAR!) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization which raises funds and provides grants to help Catholic religious congregations in the United States care for their aging members. These grants address practical immediate needs such as renovations for

accessibility, automatic doors, hospital beds and assistive devices. This assistance ensures the safety, peace of mind, and dignity of aging Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

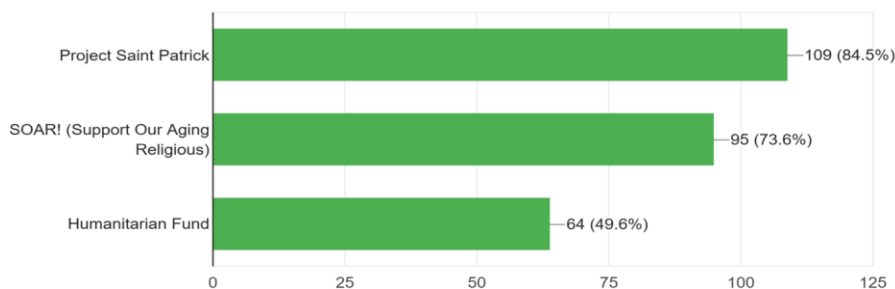
In 2026, SOAR! marks 40 years of caring for aging Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Priests. This milestone is only possible because of generous supporters like you. SOAR! is celebrating their 40th Anniversary. During the National Catholic Action Pre-Convention Committee meeting, the committee approved the recommendation to challenge each division to double their annual SOAR! donation in 2026! We hope it will be accepted by the delegates.

National Catholic Action Annual Report

Thank you to the Division, County, and State Officers for completing your Catholic Action Annual Report. I would like to provide you with the feedback that was received:

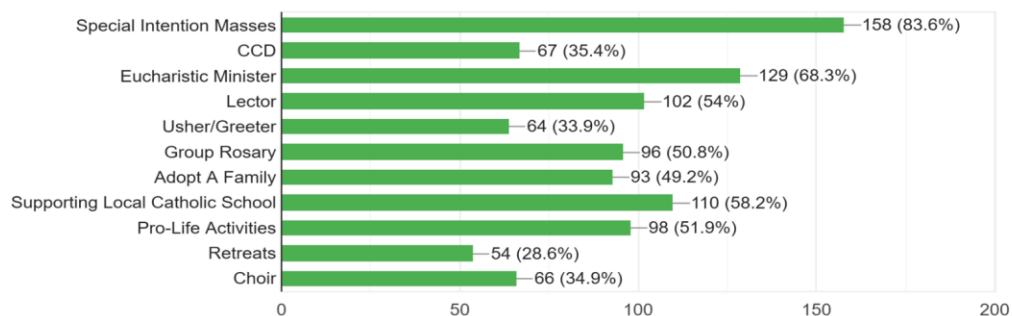
Please mark if you have provided a donation for any of the National Catholic Action Charities.

129 responses



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

189 responses



Spirit of Saint Brigid at the National Convention

In the Spirit of Saint Brigid of Kildare, where she is patroness of many things, which included learning, healing, protection, midwives, and newborn babies, and through the recommendation of the Omaha Convention Committee, we have selected Mater Filius of Nebraska 501(c)(3) as the Spirit of Saint Brigid charity. Please review their website for more information:

<https://materfiliusne.org/>

Their Mission Statement: Is to safeguard and assure the well-being of the newborn life and the dignity of the mother. They work to provide support and resources to protect and nurture the lives of mothers and their children. Defending Life with Love!

Their Vision: Is to support women as they develop into the role of a mother. Through their workshops and mentoring program, they offer a path forward. The growth experienced at Mater Filius allows for a new and healthy lifestyle.

Their Values: At Mater Filius, the mothers discover the value that you have as a human being; they learn the greatness that is within them and that they have the ability to love and be loved.

Mater Filius of Nebraska provides housing, transportation, education for the mothers, life skills, job assistance, health & well being, child enrichment, and the boutique provides new and gently used clothes, shoes, toiletries, baby items, accessories, housewares and many other items

Women receive housing, counseling, medical care, and emotional and spiritual support at no cost to them. Through workshops, they learn how to parent. Through prayer, they understand the love that Jesus Christ has for them and they have the right to be loved! Mater Filius focuses on both the unborn baby and the mother. They embrace women and offer them safety and peace inside our home. A stable and nurturing environment is essential to a healthy pregnancy, healthy birth, and a healthy, new parent.

When I received the recommendation from the Omaha Convention Committee, I reviewed their website and came across some information information that I would like to share:

- 97% of the moms who live at Mater Filius are single moms.
- Average age of a Mater Filius mom is 26 years old
- 48% of mothers in the Mater Filius home are having their first child.
- Mater Filius of Nebraska is funded entirely on private donations from generous individuals and families, as well as civic-minded clubs, social organizations, and faith communities. It also receives support from several private and corporate grants.
- Mater Filius of Nebraska relies on volunteers and gifts-in-kind. A variety of one-time or ongoing opportunities can be viewed on our support page.
- Mater Filius of Nebraska is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts made to such institutions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of these laws

Please see the feedback from one of their mothers, Hailey, who stayed with Mater Filius: “When I came into Mater Filius, my life was a wreck. I said I wanted to become independent and to be able to live with my kids without needing support from other people in my life. I think one of the best things Mater Filius has to offer is the doula program. My doula, Lisa, came into my life at a very low point and she will forever be my “personal therapist.” Having that one person who is just your support is great and something I never had before in my life. After my daughter was born I was able to enroll her in the Early Childhood Learning Center with my other two daughters. What I learned at Mater Filius is that every woman has a different path, and the volunteers there will meet you where you are at. I moved out of Mater Filius last August. It is a relief to know I can drop off my kids there in the Early Childhood Learning Center and not think twice about whether they will be taken care of or not. Mater Filius is truly a blessing and the best Google search I ever made.”

With the assistance of Kelly Hajek and Nancy Casey of Omaha, we have organized two ways that we can support Mater Filius:

- Ordering items from the Amazon Baby Registry Link that will be shipped directly to Mater Filius: https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/laohspiritofstbrigid-formaterfilius-july-2026-omaha/SUY5N9KVO60Y?ref=cm_sw_r_apin_dp_THP1JFNC7ERSCPHG4Z4&language=en-US
- Order a Spirit of Saint Brigid t-shirt
 - https://go.fieldsprintwear.com/national_laoh_fundraiser/shop/home
 - If you would like to pick up your shirt at the National Convention, the order must be placed by June 25th
 - The store will stay open until July 20th for orders to be shipped directly to you
 - Free shipping for orders over \$100 with code FS100
 - Multiple style of LAOH women’s shirts are available including v-necks and long sleeves, AOH shirts, plus youth sized shirts for both the AOH and LAOH

As of June 18th, we have collected 101 of 228 items that Mater Filius have requested. We have also received orders for 230 shirts. Our goal is to sell 500 shirts to reach our goal of a \$5,000.00 donation! Please share with your division, local AOH division(s), friends, and family! Every shirt sold will bring us closer to our goal. Thank you to everyone who has promoted and/ or supported our Spirit of Saint Brigid fundraiser. You are making a positive and immeasurable impact on the lives of these mothers and their children. It is because of your kindness and generosity these children will be raised in a safe, supported, and positive environment.

Your generosity throughout my term as your National Catholic Action Officers truly inspires me and brought me so much pride in being a LAOH member. Your kindness has a ripple effect,

because each act of goodwill can inspire others to act kindly, spreading positivity far beyond the initial gesture. I hope you know that you have had a positive impact on others' lives. You may never meet them, but please know that you have given someone hope and answered someone's prayers in their time of need.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your National Catholic Action Officer. If you have any questions or need anything prior to the Convention, please let me know.

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