

# Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Inc.



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July, Aug., Sept. 2020

## President's Message

Dear Sisters,

It has been my honor to be your president since last years' election. I have attended many of your events and Divisions. I consider you my sisters in heritage and faith. However my parents have asked me to relocate to Myrtle Beach to assist in their tender years and we have agreed to move to South Carolina.

Therefore as of August 1st I will resign as your President. Thank you for your love and support all these years.

After meeting with our former Presidents and discussing the procedures with National, Kathy Norris will assume the duties of the presidency.

That leaves a vacancy for VP. There will be no need for nominations. if you are interested, please send a letter to Kelly Parks by September 1, 2020 at [kparks1959@comcast.net](mailto:kparks1959@comcast.net) expressing your interest in the position. The candidates will be voted on by the Board at the September quarterly meeting.

I wish you joy and happiness.

Yours in love and our motto,

**-Stacie Guerin-**



## LAOH Website

Go to [www.marylandlaoh.org](http://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>

## Calendar

### July

**July 25:** LAOH National Convention via Zoom, 10 AM

### August

#### September

**Sept. 12:** LAOH State Board Meeting

**Sept. 20:** Our Lady of Knock Mass, St. Ignatius Main Church, 1 PM, Rev. James Casciotti, SJ, in person or online, details to be distributed

**Sept. 26:** LAOH State of Maryland Retreat "Awakening to Mary," rescheduled to 2021

### October

#### November

**Nov. 6-8:** Maryland Irish Festival, Tentative

## Cultural Corner

THE PULL OF THE STARS by Emma Donoghue

THE GUEST LIST by Lucy Foley

SHADOWPLAY by Joseph O'Connor

A THOUSAND MOONS by Sebastian Barry

**-Joanna Cox-**



## Gatherings

### **Irish Blessings**

The power of prayer- To heal that which cannot be healed on our own.

I am profoundly moved when I hear a follower of Christ recite a prayer that inspires me beyond words.

Recently, I reached out to a fellow LAOH sister to ask her to write a prayer for our Website's In Memoriam page. This page would pay respect to our deceased LAOH sisters. The result is a powerful prayer about our faith as Irish Catholic Women of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. May this prayer ease your sorrows as it pays respect to our dearly departed sisters.



In Memoriam

Holy Mother Mary, Patroness of America, Lady of Knock, our Golden Rose:

Intercede with your Son on behalf of our beloved sisters.

May Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton of Maryland hold her hand and guide her as the road rises to meet her and lead her to the four green fields in heaven.

May Saint Patrick, Saint Brigid, Saint Ita, and all the Irish saints welcome her to see Christ before her, Christ beside her.

May He hold her in the palm of His hand until we meet with her again.

*Mary Asaki, Harford Co. Division 2*

**-Kathy Norris-**

### Cecil County, Division 1

In Cecil County we're doing our best to live the LAOH motto, "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity." Every member has focused, meaningful opportunities to support and lead the division.

Several members now belong to our book club and we are using a Facebook Group as a platform for communication. Covid-19 has slowed down some of our activities, but we were able to keep our distance while meeting outside on June 10<sup>th</sup> to share what we're reading, listen to some live Irish music and enjoy some good craic. On August 20<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm we will have a fun night at "Paint with a Twist" in Newark, Delaware. Plans are in the works for "Our Lady of Knock" Mass on Saturday August 22.

During the spring, our service activities included making beautiful cards and masks for those confined to or visiting nursing homes and their healthcare workers. From a Facebook collection and cash donations collected for masks, we raised over \$500 for the Cecil County Pregnancy Center.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a drive-by baby shower to hand over the cash donations, diapers, clothing, handmade blankets and other baby supplies. We have been including a few ladies in our activities that we are looking forward to initiating at our next meeting!

**-Christine Hild, President-**

### **Howard County, Division 1**

Although our Division has been socially distancing and meeting virtually this quarter, we're now "enjoying" our summer hiatus. We use the term loosely since it's been challenging to get everyone together not only as a Division, but with our family and friends. Zoom has been a God-send since technology has kept us connected. As tough as it is, we've been faithful stewards following the recommendations of our healthcare and civil experts.

During this quarter, we've found ways to give back to the community, link together in prayer and engage in the work of LAOH. As a Division, we've made donations to the Maryland Food Bank, the Little Sisters of the Poor and St. John the Evangelist, Columbia. Individual members have also been attending streamed Masses, gathered in prayer communities, have made masks and donated all proceeds to charity, and



contributed goods to meet the needs of those in need. Some Division members have attended virtual pre-Convention Committee meetings and will be attending the LAOH National Convention on July 25. Despite the challenges, it's been a productive quarter and we hope to be able to gather together in the fall.

We pray that all our Sisters, family members and friends remain safe and healthy as we continue to deal with the impact of the pandemic.

May the Blessed Mother watch over us and intercede for us with her Son!

*-Sharon Strobel, President-*

### Carroll County, Division 1

Carroll County misses that we are unable to meet currently. We are keeping all our LAOH Sisters in our prayers during the challenging time in our Country and the World. We hope and pray that everyone is staying safe and healthy and look forward to the time we can all gather and celebrate our Irish Catholic Heritage.

We mourn the passing of Mary Fran Swan- a true Hibernian who encouraged Kelly Parks to start a Division in Carroll County and was a great supporter of Division in the early days. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The bus trip we had scheduled for November has been postponed until November of 2021. As soon as we know the date, we will get that out to everyone. We are also planning a Division Retreat and Picnic at Aisling House on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Pray that the weather co-operates, and we can meet outside and social distance ourselves.



The MD Irish Festival is currently underway with planning the event; the dates are November 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. We do understand that there is a chance it will not happen, but they are going ahead with the planning in the hopes it will happen.

We send our love and prayers to you all. We are happy that we can attend mass again and share in the Blessed Eucharist. God

Bless us all and God Bless our Country. We will get through this together. Peace!

*-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary-*

### Harford County, Division 2

Since the coronavirus became a pandemic, its presence has changed our daily lives on a personal and community level. We had our last chance to gather as a division to see our Vice President Thelma Graziano installed as a Deputy Parade Marshall representing the LAOH. Along with the St. Patrick's Day Parade, our regularly scheduled March division meeting was cancelled. Our March 17 St. Patrick's Day meeting was to feature an Irish food buffet.

Our April meeting was also cancelled, which we had planned to work on our May Crowning Ceremony. The coronavirus prevented our May and June meetings. June also saw our fundraising bus trip to Sight and Sound's production of "Esther" cancelled due to social distancing concerns.

Our division did get to participate in the group Rosary on four successive Thursday evenings in April. Those members without the technology to participate teamed up with a prayer partner and recited over a phone call together.

The July LAOH National Convention, originally planned for Orlando, Florida, is being converted to a virtual meeting. Some of our division members will be participating and this will be a new experience for them.

Our Vice President Thelma Graziano writes a monthly newsletter to keep us informed and connected, along with phone calls. The newsletters are emailed, sent via postal mail, or hand-delivered with social distancing. We are hopeful for the future and are implementing new ways to live in our "new normalcy".

Peace,

*-Gleela Kolakowski, Reporter-*

### Baltimore City, Division 1

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

We continue to support the women of Marion House and Independence Place by collecting toiletries and kitchen supplies for them. Nothing better fulfills our commitment to Christian charity than giving these women a hand up and helping them rebuild their lives.



We hope to soon be able to hold meetings again, the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, location to be determined. We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

**-Dorothy Reed, Reporter**

#### **Baltimore County, Division 4**

Greetings Sisters:

Unfortunately, we are still dealing with this pandemic. Fortunately for us, our governor has been very diligent during this crisis compared to some other states. We can be very thankful for that. We encourage all to keep all those suffering in our prayers.

Pat Zaccari has kept us up to date on what is happening at the State Board level. With conference calling, we have had productive meetings and are able to say hello to our members who participate. For members who can't join us, we are passing on information as best we can. We are hoping soon that we can return to St. John the Evangelist for our on-campus meetings. During our meeting in July we hope to hear about the National Convention's meeting.

We are so sorry to hear that Stacie Guerin will be stepping down but we wish her the best in all future endeavors. Stacie, you and your family will be in our prayers.

We are looking forward to being able to enjoy each other's company soon. Until then be safe and keep the LAOH in your prayers.

Our annual gift card basket raffle is in full swing. Chances are available now from Pat Zaccari. They are \$2 a piece or 3 for \$5. You can reach Pat by email [vangoghatphoenix@aol.com](mailto:vangoghatphoenix@aol.com) or 14100 Blenheim Rd N. Phoenix, MD 21131. The drawing will be held at our Christmas Party in December.



May God bless us all.

**-Mary Helen Miller, Reporter-**

#### **Anne Arundel County**

Dear Sisters,

We've continued to adapt as needed by holding phone and Zoom meetings to keep in touch. We are looking into alternative fundraisers as our Tinsel Tea appears to be a Covid Casualty.

On Sundays at 3PM we gather together via telephone to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet to pray for our special needs. A committee has been formed to develop a Welcome Directory for new members. Fr. Tran, a Vietnamese missionary, has been quarantined at St. Mary's while on his US fundraising mission. Our division and several members have contributed to his Viet Tok Foundation.

Several of our members are delegates to the virtual National LAOH Convention on July 25 and will be keeping us posted on results.

St. Mary's and St. John Neumann have each added an outdoor mass to the weekend schedule---bring your own chair! We are also blessed that our chaplain (and St. Mary's pastor), Fr. Patrick Woods, has added several weekday masses. You will enjoy his reason from the weekly parish newsletter: "There are too many priests at breakfast taking my Cheerios, so I will have them say more masses."



We wish you good health and peace,

**-Jane Lunney, Reporter-**

#### **Baltimore County, Division 1**

Needless to say, there's not much going on in our division except for praying for an end to this pandemic. We are keeping Stacie and her husband Billy in our prayers for a full recovery since they have tested positive with the virus.

We have sent the winnings from our raffle to Little Sisters and Our Daily Bread. We also sent a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Mary Fran Swan as she was a true Hibernian who has done so much for the LAOH and all the other Irish organizations.

We trust everyone will stay safe and pray to Our Lady of Knock to protect us thru these trying times.

**Maureen Shettle, President-**

## Harford County, Division 1

*Not Everything is Cancelled.....*

Not everything is cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Love is not

cancelled

Reading is not

cancelled

Devotion is not

cancelled

Music is not

cancelled

Imagination is not

cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

And God's love for HIS people is never cancelled.

*(Author unknown)*

*Our hearts and prayers are with each of you during this challenging time.*

**- Kathy Lay, Reporter-**

## Baltimore County, Division 14

Summer greetings from Division 14! We hope all of our sisters are happy and healthy during this very trying summer of social distancing. The division is currently not meeting in person but we are looking into ways that we can have meetings through some combination of phone or video conferencing.

Our regular meeting at the Villa Assumpta has been halted for the foreseeable future. The sisters at the Villa do not allow outside guests. Once we are able to figure out a method that as easy as possible we will send out more information!

In the meantime, the division is proceeding with our normal spring activities. We are collecting donations for the Mercy NICU to be able to provide the NICU with a cash gift. While we always enjoy gifting adorable outfits, this is the safest option for the staff and patients in the NICU.

We are also hosting our annual fundraiser. A mailer for the fundraiser should have been received by all of our ladies. If you did not receive any information on the fundraiser, please let myself or Denny know.

We look forward to be able to see our sisters again. Until that time, we wish everyone a safe and healthy remainder of your summer!

**-Ashley Knapik, President-**



## Worcester County, Division 1

Greetings from Ocean City,

Our hopes and prayers are that all of our Maryland sisters are well and safe during these still uncertain times. We do not have any regular meetings scheduled as of yet but we hope to get some small gatherings planned in the near future.

As of this time, we have been unable to get a date for Our Lady of Knock Mass. As soon as we have a firm date, we will send the information out to division presidents. We have had to cancel our annual Card Party in October so we are brainstorming for other fundraising ideas. Our participation in the Ocean City Sunfest is also undetermined at this time. Our prayers will guide us through and keep everyone safe and healthy.

**-Mary Rosenhagen, President-**

### **Our Lady of Knock**



*Golden Rose  
Queen of Ireland  
All my cares  
And troubles cease  
As I kneel  
With love  
Before you  
Lady of Knock  
My  
Queen of Peace*

### **In Memorium-**

**Mary Fran Swan-Harford County, Div. 1**  
**Mary Ann Welsh-Worcester County, Div.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.*