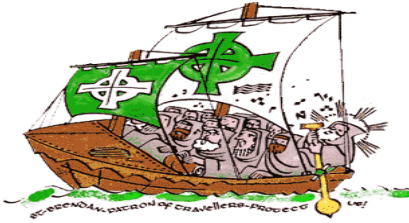


**St. Brendan Division #1 - AOH, Berks County, PA**  
**Celebrating 40 years of community service February 19, 2019**



**Serving the Irish American Community for over a century**  
**INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 7, 1860 -----RE-ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 16, 1979**  
**Visit our Website [www.berkscoah.com](http://www.berkscoah.com)**

**Volume XXX11/Tóirt a Tríocha a dó -- Issue #1/Eagrán a haon - Iúil/Lunasa/Méan Fómhair - July/August/September 2022**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hopefully this newsletter finds you and your family healthy, and actively enjoying the summer months. As the pandemic limitations of Covid-19 are being lifted, we can now resume our passions and interests enjoyed by previous to the pre-pandemic era. Through all of this, we have been fortunate to have meetings and function as an AOH division.

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, July 13th at 7:00 at the St. Ignatius of Loyola church school in Whitfield. Our meetings are being conducted in a spacious room, which

provides for easy access for entry and parking, and restroom utilization. All members are requested to attend this meeting. Our focus will be on Membership !

We are at the crossroads of either continuing to be a great Division or a dissolved Division! The traditions and past accomplishments of our fine Division are great, but slowly becoming thoughts of past memories and legends. Some of the reasons for this transition is due to low and deceased membership, membership apathy, inability to foster interesting and meaningful current community charity activities, fundraising to support our planned events, and the need to replace officer positions, which have been held by long term members. There is a need for a new generation of members to lead this Division into the future!

The officers are open to receive any suggestions or recommendations to consider for improvement and increase in membership numbers. Anyone with ideas for membership recruitment can call me directly at 610-678-4590 or email me at [shamokin71@aol.com](mailto:shamokin71@aol.com) or come to the next meeting in person. We need new members, who are willing to step up and assume some key officer positions. Currently, there are a few positions that have been held by members for years, but are in jeopardy of continuance because of age and health. These are positions critical to the future functioning of our organization, which need time to transition for understanding. Come to a meeting and learn what each of these offices entail and give some thought to contribute back to the Division!

Also, we discussed bringing back the summer picnic for membership as a social event for members. In past years, this was a major event for members to look

forward too. Also, we discussed about a bus trip to a New York Irish event, and participation in Irish parades. This is a start to resume some socialization for members and family. This is another area of thought for members to bring to meetings to improve our interactions in the community and providing fun things to do within the membership ranks.

to foster interesting and meaningful current community charity activities, fundraising to support our planned events, and the need to replace officer positions, which have been held by long term members. There is a need for a new generation of members to lead this Division into the future!

Our AOH Division has been a great close-knit unit, which has fostered life long friendships, and benefits to our community and other families. We need to re-think ideals for membership recruitment, and processes to carry on with our mission and basic organizational goals. This is only accomplished by active membership participation and involvement in our division!

If anyone knows of a brother in need or sick, please contact us. Otherwise, stay safe and healthy, and enjoy an eventful summer. I hope to see you at our subsequent meetings.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Kerry Williard, President

#### **DANIEL J. FLANNERY SCHOLARSHIP**

We are accepting applications for The Daniel Flannery Scholarship 2022 Award. These applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee and a selection of this year's recipient will be made by next meeting. his award is given to a deserving student who has the best essay on *"What It Means to be an Irish Catholic in Today's Society."*

**MEETING NIGHT** Just a reminder that St. Brendan's Div.#1 has changed our meeting to the second Wednesday of each month. For the past 40 years we had been meeting on the second Friday, however due to a drop in membership attending meetings we decided that perhaps changing to Wednesday would be more acceptable and increase member participation. We encourage all members who may be interested to join us.

#### **COMING EVENTS**

07/04/22	Independence Day
07/13/22	General Membership Meeting
08/10/22	General Membership meeting
08/21/22	Feast of "Our Lady of Knock"
09/05/22	Labor Day
09/13/22	Commodore John Barry Day
09/14/22	General Membership meeting
10/12/22	General Membership Meeting
11/09/22	General Membership Meeting
11/11/22	Veteran's Day
11/24/22	Thanksgiving Day
12/09/22	General Membership Meeting

12/25/22	Christmas Day
01/01/23	New Year's Day

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

All members are reminded that membership fees for 2022 are now being accepted. Dues remain at \$25.00 per year. You can forward dues to:

Joseph G. McCarthy, Financial  
Secretary St. Brendan's Division #1,  
437 Elmer Circle  
Reading, Pa. 19605-9116

Please make all checks payable to AOH. Div. 1 Berks. For information on dues payments call Joe McCarthy at 610-927-5224.

We ask you to please, check your membership card and notify me a.s.a.p. if changes are needed in address, phone numbers (land & cell) and email addresses. In addition, all members who have served in the Military, if your card does not signify that you are a veteran, please supply me with your branch of service and dates of service and an updated card will be supplied.

As you may have noticed, the National Office is sending out direct e-mail notices concerning member participation in video conferencing and seminars of importance to the Irish American Community. In addition to mailing the Hibernian Digest every other month. So, it is very important we have updated information on hand.

#### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Prayers are requested for following persons who have requested to be listed in our prayer list. Included in the list are AOH members, family of members and members of the LAOH, Berks County: John Mackey, Kerry Williard, Joseph McCarthy, Deacon John Murphy, Henry Mullen, Kathleen Fink, Julie Miller, Mary Collins, Mary DeMarco, Charles Fritz, Leontine Williard, wife of President Kerry Williard, Doug Carlson, Carey Carlson, Teri Brennan Carlson, Terry Morrison, Carolyn Healey, Shay Mulligan and all members in need of prayers.

Special prayers are asked for the following deceased members and their families: Rita Mullen, Henry Trexler, Betsy Paolini, Dr. Richard Flannery, Clare Flannery and all the deceased members of the AOH-LAOH of Berks County.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

If we have learned anything from the recent pandemic, it is the necessity to keep the avenues of communication open when we lose our ability to meet regularly. This newsletter is our main source of communicating with you as well as the National Hibernian Digest, mailed every other month, so it is of great importance to keep you informed as to what plans are being made with you, the member in mind.

We direct you to the list of supporters on the last page of our newsletter. Thanks to their support our newsletter is made possible. If you would like to join our list of supporters for the first time, our rates remain the same \$12 for patron ads, and \$50 for business card ads.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

**Fáilte romhaibh** to our new members Dr. David O'Connell and William Carroll Jr. Both men were initiated into our order on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **LADY OF KNOCK MASS**

Now that the pandemic is over, it is our hope to once again hold a Mass to honor our "**Lady of Knock, Irelands only Queen.**" Bonnie Collins has been in touch with Father Bowman who says the Mass at the Alvernia Convent Chapel. Currently he is under the weather with lower back pain and will let us know no later than July if we can schedule a Mass for either the 13<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. More later.

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

The names of members who are celebrating birthdays during the next two months are listed below. We have acquired the information from our membership applications, so if there are any corrections or errors please advise.

#### **JULY**

11th Fr. Robert Finlan  
11th Robert J. McHale  
23rd Robert McIntyre  
30th Msgr. Stephen Radocha

#### **AUGUST**

3rd Michael B. Rely  
9th Andrew Scott  
10th Fr Eugene Ritz  
11th Sean Flannery  
16th John J McHale  
18th John McCormack  
19th Timothy J. Dillon

#### **SEPTEMBER**

16th Timothy M. Kelly  
17th James D. Caherly  
22nd Ray Butterworth  
23rd Daniel R Flannery  
23rd John J. Dore

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Are you aware that St. Brendan's Division #1 is available on several social media platforms? Listed are the addresses where we can be found:

Facebook - **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

St Brendan's Website - [www.berkscoah.com](http://www.berkscoah.com)

National AOH Website - [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

St. Brendan's Division #1, as is just about every Fraternal or Civic organization in the country is hoping the end of the pandemic will see a rise in member

participation and recruitment of new members.

We have been fortunate over the last two years that we have maintained our membership, and even picked up a few members to replace members who we lost to death. However, if we re to continue to grow and prosper, we must increase our roles and indeed find new younger members to continue the work our elders have worked so diligently to ensure our History, Culture, and traditions is not forgotten. To continue that work we are asking some of our younger members to step forward and accept an officer opening that exists. If interested contact President Kerry Williard.

### **F.Y.I. did you know the story behind Ireland's flag**



The Irish flag was flown for the first time ever on March 7, 1848, by Thomas Francis Meagher in Co Waterford. The Irish flag - or, in Irish, the 'Bratach na hÉireann' - was flown publicly for the first time on March 7, 1848 during that year's Young Irelander Rebellion in Waterford City at the Wolfe Tone Confederate Club.

The Irish flag, or tricolor, was first flown by Thomas Francis Meagher, then a leader of the Young Irelander movement, who would go down in history as Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher of the Union Army during the American Civil War.

In the US, Meagher is best remembered for his role as a General in the Union Army and Governor of what is now Montana, his impact on Irish history and patriotic pride was also immense.

When Meagher [hung the tricolor in Waterford](#), it boldly flew for eight days and nights until it was taken down by the British.

Meagher and his fellow Young Irelanders had been inspired by the 1848 revolutions across Europe. In April of 1848, a contingent of them traveled to France to congratulate the rebels there on overthrowing King Louis Philippe I. There, Meagher was presented with an Irish tricolor woven out of French silk.

Upon returning to Ireland, he, in turn, presented it to the Irish people, explaining the symbolism of the flag's three colors: "The white in the center signifies a lasting truce between the orange and the green," he said, "and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped, in generous and heroic brotherhood."

The green represents Irish nationalism; the orange, Ireland's Protestant minority, and the Orange Order; the white, lasting peace between the two.

For his role in the 1848 rebellion, Meagher was tried for treason and sentenced to death, but this sentence was commuted to banishment to Van Diemen's Land in Australia. He would later escape to a new life in the United States.

While the tricolor had gained traction as a symbol for Ireland until the [1916 Easter Rising](#), the primary flag of Ireland was green with a harp in the center (the harp remains as Ireland's national symbol; Ireland is the only country in the world that has a musical instrument as such). That flag was used as early as 1642, by Owen Roe O'Neill, an Irish soldier, and leader of the O'Neill dynasty.

During the Rising, both flags were flown above the GPO, the headquarters of the rebels, and the tricolor became more widely accepted.

After the Rising, it was adopted by the IRA during the Irish War of Independence (1919 - 1921), was a symbol of the Irish Free State from 1922 - 1937, and then, when the Irish constitution came into law later that year, it was confirmed as the official flag of Ireland by Article 7, which reads: "The national flag of Ireland is the tricolor of green, white and orange."

Today, the tricolor is a symbol of Irish pride and remains an important reminder of the peace that has been achieved and the progress that has yet to be made.

Throughout 2016, which, in addition to marking the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising also marks 100 years since the tricolor emerged into the popular imagination, the Irish Defense Forces, and the Thomas F. Meagher foundation are working to ensure that the history of the flag is better known.

In the lead up to the [1916 centenary](#), every school in Ireland received an Irish flag. In post-primary schools, the Thomas F. Meagher Foundation presented the Irish flag. In primary schools, the flag was presented by a member of Ireland's defense forces, who educated the students on the flag's story, its meaning, and proper care.

For example, the flag must always be flown above any others on the staff, it must never be displayed in poor condition, and it must always fly with the green segment closest to the

flagstaff. (Reversed, the Irish flag is quite similar to the Ivory Coast flag.)

## **HOW DID THE VIKINGS CHANGE IRELAND**

**While it's been shown that Viking blood had a larger impact on Irish DNA than previously thought, what other contributions did the Vikings have in Ireland?**

The fact is that the Vikings had quite an impact on Ireland and contributed to the country more than you may think. Vikings first invaded Ireland in 795 AD and the rest is history. The Vikings from the Scandinavian countries began raiding Ireland just before 800 AD and continued for two centuries before Brian Boru defeated them at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

The first recorded Viking raid in Ireland occurred in 795 AD when the church on Lambeg Island in Dublin was plundered and burned. At the time, there were no true towns in Ireland but rather scattered communities near monasteries that served as 'safe houses' for valuables, food, and cattle. This made those locations prime targets for Viking raids.

As the Vikings continued their raids on Ireland during the ninth century they established settlements around the country, many of which still survive today. One of the earliest Viking settlements established at the mouth of the Liffey survived to become what is now modern Dublin.

In 914 AD, a fleet of ships established a base at Waterford, followed by a base at Cork. Somewhat later, an invasion along the Shannon estuary laid the foundation for Limerick. Wexford was another stronghold, with the region between Wexford, Waterford, and Kilkenny known as Ireland's Viking Triangle.

Why did the Vikings come to Ireland? The act of traveling overseas to other lands and plundering them of their wealth and riches was really what the Viking society was about. The Vikings were great experts at building boats which were used for long journeys and they made use of this to travel, raid, and gather as much as they could from other people.

Researchers at Trinity College Dublin believe that Viking and Norman invasions of Ireland may have made a more striking impression on the DNA breakup of the country than previously thought. They also discovered 23 new genetic clusters in Ireland not previously identified, leading to the belief that we may have far more Viking and Norman ancestry than previously evidenced.

By comparing 1,000 Irish genomes with over 6,000 genomes from Britain and mainland Europe, genetic clusters within the west of Ireland, in particular, were discovered for the first time, leading the researchers to investigate if



invasions from the Vikings and Normans to the east may have influenced genetics in that part of the country.

Some of the most common Irish surnames also derive from Viking origins. Doyle (son of the dark foreigner), MacAuliffe (Son of Olaf) and MacManus (Son of Manus) all originate from the Scandinavian warriors who settled in Ireland and married the native Irish. The Vikings are credited with creating the first trade routes between Ireland,



Scandinavia and England. Using Dublin as their main base in Ireland, they traded with the rest of Europe to a level the native Irish never had before them. This brought in many influences from Europe which remain in Ireland to this day.

As the Vikings continued their raids on Ireland during the ninth century they established settlements around the country, many of which still survive today. Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Wexford and Limerick were all turned into trading centers by the Vikings and later developed into the towns and cities we know today

As well as this, arguably the most famous cathedral in Ireland and still to this day a big draw for tourists in Dublin, is the magnificent Christ Church Cathedral. Silkbeard, the Norse King of Dublin was responsible for it being built around the year 1030.

### IRISH TRIVIA

1990. Who has the claim of bringing St. Patrick to Ireland?

- A—St. Brigid
- B—Niall of the Nine Hostages
- C—Bord Failte
- D—The Vikings

2. What Irish island is named St. Patrick's Purgatory?

- A—Lough Derg
- B—Inismore
- C—Clare Island
- D—Tory Island

3. Who was Ireland's first canonized saint?

- A—St. Lawrence O'Toole
- B—St. Oliver Plunkett
- C—St. Matthew Talbot
- D—St. Patrick

4. What is the name of the legendary Atlantic island that is visible only every 7 years?

- \* A—Southern Ireland
- \* B—Inismore
- \* C—Glengariff
- \* D—Hy Brasil

5. Who is the Irish hero whose name originated in his boyhood murder of a hound?

- \* A—Cuchulainn
- \* B—Oisin
- \* C—Patrick
- \* D—Kevin

6. From when does the passage grave at Newgrange County Meath date?

- \* A—2500 BC
- \* B—500 BC
- \* C—1000 BC
- \* D—500 AD

7. Oliver Cromwell said there is "no timber to hang a man, no water to drown a man, nor no earth to bury a man." What part of Ireland was he referring to?

- \* A—Connemara
- \* B—The Burren
- \* C—Kerry
- \* D—All of Ireland

8. Who said "the hospitality of an Irishman is not the running account of posted and ledgered courtesies, as in other countries; it springs like all his qualities, his faults, his virtues, directly from his heart?"

- \* A—Charles Stewart Parnell
- \* B—Daniel O'Connell
- \* C—Wolfe Tone
- \* D—Robert Emmet

9. Who wrote the novel The Informer?

- \* A—James Joyce
- \* B—Frank O'Connor
- \* C—Liam O'Flaherty
- \* D—Leon Uris

10. Who founded Dublin in 988 AD?

- \* A—Vikings
- \* B—Celts
- \* C—Normans
- \* D—Henry II of England

### IRISH HISTORY

#### THE FENIAN INVASION OF CANADA

John O'Neill fulfilled his boyhood dream as he marshaled an 800-man army to the war front in the final hours of May 1866. The Celtic blood of the Irish-born soldiers coursed just a little quicker as they embarked on an expedition they hoped would ultimately result in the eviction of the British from their homeland after 700 years of foreign occupation. "The governing passion of my life apart from my duty to my God is to be at the head of an Irish Army battling against

England for Ireland's rights," O'Neill declared. "For this I live, and for this, if necessary, I am willing to die."

In the spring of 1866, a band of Irish-Americans who fought on both sides of the Civil War united to undertake one of the most fantastical missions in military history: invade the British province of Canada, seize the territory and ransom it back to the British for Ireland's independence.

While the United States and its northern neighbor currently share the longest peaceful international border in the world, that wasn't always the case. During America's first century, the U.S. and Canada were uneasy neighbors. Armed conflicts erupted periodically along the boundary line, which was a no-man's land frequented by counterfeiter and smugglers.

American anger toward Canada surged during the Civil War when it became a haven for draft dodgers, escaped prisoners of war and Confederate agents who plotted hostile covert operations—including raids on border towns, the firebombing of New York City and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The Irish-American members of the Fenian Brotherhood, which sought to end 700 years of colonial rule by England in Ireland, Canada was a natural target. Why? Because it was the nearest parcel of the British Empire to the U.S.

Like many Fenians, John O'Neill could never forgive the British for the horrors he had witnessed as a boy coming of age during An Gorta Mór. After Ireland had endured seven centuries of attempts by its occupying neighbor to exterminate its culture, many Irish saw the lackluster British response to their catastrophic potato crop failure in 1845 as nothing less than an endeavor to eradicate them altogether.

Radicalized by the An Gorta Mór and his grandfather's tales of 17<sup>th</sup>-century ancestors who dared to take up arms against the Crown, the teenaged O'Neill joined hundreds of thousands of Irishmen fleeing to the United States. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the Union Army, sustained serious injuries during the siege of Knoxville and had a horse shot out from under him during the Peninsular Campaign.

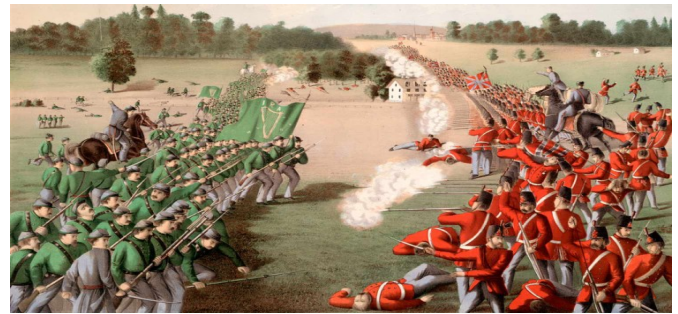
That conflict, however, served as a training ground for the real war he wished to wage—a revolution to overthrow British rule in Ireland.

The simple logic of attacking the British just over the American border—rather than an ocean away in Ireland—seduced O'Neill to join the Fenian Brotherhood. "Canada is a province of Great Britain; the English flag floats over it and English soldiers protect it," he wrote. "Wherever the

English flag and English soldiers are found, Irishmen have a right to attack."

Summoned to the battlefield in late May 1866, O'Neill left behind his wife, 2-month-old son and business worth \$50,000 in Nashville to attack Canada. When the invasion's commanders failed to show in Buffalo, New York, O'Neill was given the reins to the 800-man attack force, which called itself the Irish Republican Army.

In the early morning hours of 1 June 1866, O'Neill fulfilled a lifelong dream by leading his men across the Niagara River and the international border. "The governing passion of my life apart from my duty to my God is to be at the head of an Irish Army battling against England for Ireland's rights," he declared. "For this I live, and for this if necessary I am willing to die."



(The charge of the Fenians (wearing green uniforms) under Colonel John O'Neill at the Battle of Ridgeway, near Niagara, Canada West, on 2 June 1866. In reality, the Fenians had their own green flags but wore a very mixed bag of Union and Confederate uniforms (if they still had them, or parts of them left over from the Civil War), or civilian garb, with strips of green as arm or hat bands to distinguish themselves.)

O'Neill proved to be a talented commander and tactician when he confronted a combined British and Canadian force the following day outside the village of Ridgeway, 20 miles south of Niagara Falls. Although outnumbered, the grizzled army of Civil War veterans used its experience to rout a makeshift defense force that included farm boys and University of Toronto students who had never once fired a gun. O'Neill followed that up with another triumph in a guerilla fight through the streets of Fort Erie.

It marked the first Irish military victory over forces from the British Empire since 1745.

### **TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. B. Niall of the nine hostages
2. A. Lough Derg
3. A. St. Lawrence O'Toole
4. D. Hy Brasil
5. A. Cuchulainn
6. A. 2500 BC
7. B. The Burren
8. B. Daniel O'Connell
9. C. Liam O'Flaherty
10. A. The Vikings

## OUR LADY OF KNOCK

On August 21 Irish diaspora across the world celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Knock. It is a National Holiday for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Annually our division tries to celebrate with a Mass, unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic over the past three years restricted our ability to observe in a group.

By now I am sure most of you are familiar with the story of the Apparition that occurred on the evening of August 21, 1879 in the village of Knock in County Mayo Ireland. In fact, many have made a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine on more than one occasion. But, did you know that there are more than one apparition site in Ireland? In fact, Dungloe, Co Donegal and Ballinspittle, County Cork reportedly had a visitation from Our Blessed Mother. What follows is another reported visit from heaven.

### **Virgin Mary Inchigeela,**

**Rosemary O'Sullivan** was eleven years old when she said she first saw Our Lady on August 5, 1985. Our Lady called her "Rose" and appeared to her most frequently during the first six months. Her last reported apparition of Our Lady was on August 13, 1986. These events started when Marie and Rosemary bicycled to visit the Grotto at Gortaneadin on August 5, 1985.

The girls simultaneously saw the glowing figure of an exceedingly beautiful young lady whom they immediately knew was the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Frightened, yet fascinated they hurried to Rose's house on their bicycles and related their experience to Rose's sister Mary. Mary advised them to return to the Grotto again. This they did the next day and while praying the rosary Our Lady appeared again and this time gave them a one-word message "Peace."

Marcia and Fionna are two sisters originally from County Cork. They came from a devoutly Catholic family of five children and were not particularly religious, just two normal girls. One grotto at Gortaneadin had been constructed by a local family in memory of their daughter and in commemoration of the Marian year of 1954, a second grotto, Rossmore Grotto, was constructed by the parishioners of Inchigeela. The girls' aunt used to bring them for a drive on Sundays and the only prayers the girls said were a quick Hail Mary and the Memorare, taught by their aunt, and at the end of the day when the crowds had left, and they waited to be driven home again.

On Easter Sunday 1987 they went on their usual drive to the grotto at Gortaneadin and dropped into Rossmore Grotto to say a few prayers when Fionna had her 'first experience.' With eyes fixed on the sky, she later told her aunt and a cousin who had traveled with them that day, that she saw Our Lady's statue go up into the sky and a beautiful

lady came down from the sky dressed like the statue with doves at her feet. Her experience had no effect on her on her return home and neither girl changed from their usual ways.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> of 1987 Fionna again went into Trance, telling her aunt and sister afterwards that the lady has called herself Our Lady Queen of Peace. These experiences were to continue. Her parents, fearful for her sanity and not accepting her explanations, sought spiritual guidance. Their Priest told them to remove all religious pictures and objects from the home and stop allowing them to go to the grotto. They sent both sisters off to relatives in West Cork for the summer, but the lady continued to appear to Fionna. She asked that they return to the grotto at Inchigeela. Back at school in September the parents decided to allow them to visit the grotto and accompanied them. They saw Fionna go into Trance and have been supportive since this.

In 1989 the lady asked that petitions be placed before her so that her son, Jesus, could acknowledge them. One came from a Limerick lady who was thinking of arranging aid to Russia. Their request for guidance was confirmed, and since then have been traveling to Russia and Ukraine. The small group of 8 people called themselves "The Mustard Seed" and they continue their work at the lady's request.

1990 saw an increase in visions for Fionna, and in 1993 the lady asked her to go to Limerick to set up a House of Prayer, showing her the exact house in a vision. She told Fionna that she wanted Marcia to give up her job and help Fionna in this work for her. An exhaustive search had yielded nothing and as they made their last visit to auctioneer's offices before returning home, Fionna noticed a picture of a property on a notice board similar to that she had been shown by the lady. They went to see it and discovered it was the one shown her. A committee was set in place to help fundraise for the property and on January 20<sup>th</sup> the girls packed their bags and moved to Doon, living in a mobile home while the work was carried out on the property.

## FAMILY OUTING

We are investigating the possibility of starting up our annual family outings again. We would like to hold our outings at a location convenient for all which is why we tried to get a date set at Laurel Run park on River Road in Muhlenberg Township, unfortunately they had no open dates for this year. While we are looking for a place to hold our outing, we ask each member to notify us if you have a place in mind that may be available.

We are looking for a place that has a pavilion, tables and room for play area and most importantly of all, where there are restrooms and adult refreshment is allowed. Call Kerry with suggestions **610-678-4590**.



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09/22

Labor Day September 5, 2022



### Our Lady of Knock - Irelands only Queen

On the evening of 21 August 1879, people whose ages ranged from five years to seventy-five and included men, women, teenagers, children, witnessed what they claimed was an apparition of Our Lady, Saint Joseph, and Saint John the Evangelist at the south gable end of the local small parish church, the Church of Saint John the Baptist. Behind them and a little to the left of Saint John was a plain altar. On the altar there was a cross and a lamb (a traditional image of Jesus, as reflected in the religious phrase The Lamb of God) with adoring angels. The Blessed Virgin Mary was described as being very beautiful, standing a few feet above the ground. She wore a white cloak, hanging in full folds and fastened at the neck. The crown appeared brilliant, and of a golden brightness, of a deeper hue, than the striking whiteness of the robe she wore; the upper parts of the crown appeared to be a series of sparkles, or glittering crosses. She was described as "deep in prayer", with her eyes raised to heaven, her hands raised to the shoulders or a little higher, the palms inclined slightly to the shoulders. Bridget Trench "went in immediately to kiss, as I thought, the feet of the Blessed Virgin; but I felt nothing in the embrace but the wall, and I wondered why I could not feel with my hands the figures which I had so plainly and so distinctly seen"