



Celebrating 45 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Editor – Pat Shea 804.516.9598 ([pshea1128@gmail.com](mailto:pshea1128@gmail.com))

Photographer – Patrick Shea ([patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org](mailto:patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org))

Webmaster – Patrick Shea ([pshea1128@gmail.com](mailto:pshea1128@gmail.com))

### Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

Chaplain  
Jim Arsenault

President  
Dan Caffrey 512-6288

Vice President  
Mike Valacer 516-4004

Recording Secretary  
[John Condon](#) 980-5649

Financial Secretary  
Tim McDonnell 678-9674

Treasurer  
[Fred Gerloff](#) 305-2662

Chairman of Standing  
Committee  
Dave Woychik

Marshal  
Dan McLaughlin

Sentinel  
[Peter "PJ" George](#)

Historian  
[Brian Hegarty](#) 814-3517

Right to Life  
[Mike Smith](#) 873-2198

Executive Secretary  
[Dan Caffrey](#) 512-6288

Raffle Chairman  
[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

Chair of the Sick  
[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area  
code (804) unless otherwise  
indicated*

Next Meeting – June 11, 2024 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

#### President's Message: President's Message:



Dear Brothers,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of summer.

We had 31 of us at our **June 8 Squirrel Game Outing**. At times in the past we've had as many as 50 attend. Seems a few folks missed it this year. Thanks to Tim for organizing and delivering tickets to each person, we had a great time. It was a nice evening for a baseball game with great friends.

A reminder to try and recruit **new AOH members** (Irish Catholic men). Invite them to attend our meeting (they can be installed at the meeting), or invite them to attend one of our events, or invite them to attend a Squirrels game or golf (see below), or the Moose Lodge on a Friday night for Steak Night (ask me).

#### See below for our July 4<sup>th</sup> Events:

[Ashland July Fourth Parade & Celebration — Hanover Arts & Activities Center](#)

#### July 4th Parade

March as the AOH

meet up at 10:30 am at Henry Clay Elementary School

#### Independence Day Picnic – July 4, 2024

K of C Council 395, the Richmond Assembly and the Ancient Order of Hibernians will co-host a Fourth of July picnic again this year.

Thursday, July 4 12:00 Noon - Doors Open 12:20 PM - Lunch is served in the Fr. Adrian Hall

\$10.00 per person / \$30.00 Family maximum

Beer is \$3.00 a glass / Wine is \$4.00 a glass (soft drinks are provided).

The Columbian Center - 2324 Pump Road Richmond VA 23233

The menu is classic picnic food: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Italian Sausage, Brats, Garden Salad, Cold Salads, and Desserts.

This is a picnic and therefore the dress code is casual: jeans and shorts are preferred and encouraged.

Please RSVP at your earliest opportunity! Also, we need helpers to make this event a success. Sign up to attend and/or to volunteer at:

[July 4 Picnic](#)

I will have some **AOH Bears** (small stuffed bears) for sale at our meetings. \$20 per bear. They'll make nice gifts to children. We sold some bears at our last meeting and I have some left to sell at our June meeting. This is a fundraiser for the AOH State Board to recoup expenses from the last AOH State Convention.

Reminder to **bring cash to each meeting** for our 50/50 raffle (50% to our Vocations Fund) and donations to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Hope you can attend our June meeting before our summer break. Remember, we don't meet in July and August.

**The Flying Squirrels** season has kicked off. I'm enjoying our **Silver Squirrels** Group at every Tuesday home game with a number (about 15) of us that attend. Let us know if you'd like to join us. At times we have extra tickets, or you can buy a ticket and sit with us – there are normally empty seats around us.

I'm also enjoying **golfing** with our AOH Group. We have up to 12 of us on average play 9 holes every Thursday afternoon (4:40 pm) at Sycamore and every Sunday afternoon (2 pm) at Hanover Golf Club. Please let me know if you'd like to join us.

Please look at our **Calendar of Events** for the year (see in the newsletter) and see where you might be able to attend and/or volunteer.

See below for our upcoming events, please plan to attend if you can:

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Big Dan Caffrey  
Other Events for Newsletter:

---

## Upcoming Events:

**August 3, 2024, Saturday, from 12 to 7 pm – St. Elizabeth's Jazz Festival, 2712 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Richmond, VA 23222. Work the Beer Tent.**

**August 7-11, 2024, Fri. thru Sun.- AOH National Convention in Orlando, FL.** Attending – Brian Kiernan, Vince Eikmeier, Mike Valacer, Matt Costello and Dan Caffrey. Register at [AOH - LAOH Convention 2024 Orlando \(orlandoirish2024.com\)](http://AOH-LAOH Convention 2024 Orlando (orlandoirish2024.com));

**(TBC) August 25, 2024, Sunday - Our Lady of Knock (8/21/1879) Mass** at 11 am at St. Michael's Church. Party afterward (brunch at ROT or late afternoon at someone's house?), location TBD.

**(TBC) September 17, 2024, Tuesday at Time TBD** – Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, location TBD.

**October 6, 2024, Sunday– Commemorate Commodore Barry Day (9/13/1803- date of death) at 1 pm** at St. Michael Catholic Church. Family Picnic (Chair Mike Muldowney).

**(TBD) Oct 26-27, 2024 or November 2-3, 2024 – Richmond Highland Games at Dorey Park;** [www.richmondhighlandgames.com](http://www.richmondhighlandgames.com) Selling of 2025 Raffle Tickets and Recruiting at Double Booth.

**December 10, 2024, Tuesday at 7 pm – AOH Meeting/Officer Installation** for 2025 Officers by a State AOH Officer at St. Michael's Church (family event).

**December 15, 2024, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Michael's Catholic Church - Family Christmas Party.** (Chair Mike Muldowney).

---

### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List

**From May 14, 2024 Meeting – For June 11, 2024 Meeting**

Please contact [Fr. Jim Arsenault](mailto:Fr. Jim Arsenault) if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or [jarsenault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Barbara O'Connor** – Wife of *Charley O'Connor* – has Multiple System Atrophy. In VCU at home hospice program
- **Jim Woods' father** – Back pain, trouble walking, in hospice now.
- **Helene Zaepeel** – Mother-in-law to *Steve McGann* – passed away 3/23/2024.
- **Shyler** – great niece to *Tom Forbes* – pneumonia.
- **Mitch Irvine** – recovering from surgical repair to aorta.

- **Jennifer Jordan** – niece of *Frank Kelly*, age 40, murdered in California.
- **Joe Moore** – friend of *Billy Spicer*, hip repair.
- **Sean O'Grady** – AOH brother, cancer and wife who was in a recent car accident
- **Megan Keefe Sprague** – daughter of *Larry Keefe*, gall bladder surgery.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Stokes McCune** – Brain surgery, heart issues, lung issues. Stage 4 cancer.
- **Celeste Jelen** – relation of *Vince Eikmeier* – cancer of the appendix
- **John Hegarty** – cousin of *Brian Hegarty* – Diagnosed with cancer. In chemo.
- **Scott Nugent** – Finished initial treatment for his brain tumor. Ongoing treatment now
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* – Had a bad fall and recovering.
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – Having kidney issues. Still recuperating
- **Aunt Carol** – Diagnosed with liver cancer
- **Tom Murphy** – Has Covid and low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Meniere's disease
- **Greg Hill** – Cousin of *Tim McDonnell* - Being treated for esophageal cancer (48 with young family)
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. Undergoing surgery.
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of *Scott Nugent* – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Ongoing treatment.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Moved to extended care in Northern VA. Being looked after by his son
- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Anne Gillikin** – Wife of *Ed Gillikin* – Recovering from an operation on October 25.
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery and is recovering well
- **Melissa Stelman** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Has Stage 3 colon cancer. Finished chemo in early Sept.
- **Phyllis Collins** - Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Diagnosed with Parkinsons and has Lewy body dementia
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke

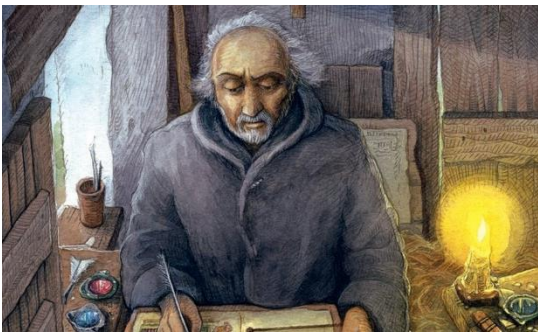
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings*' mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery

- *Mark Atchison* – Brother **Daniel Atchison** – Quadruple bypass in August

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

## Saint Colmcille

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Ireland is known as the “Land of Saints and Scholars” because of the vital role the island nation played in preserving the light of faith and learning during Europe’s dark age. Five hundred recognized saints from the Emerald Isle lived between the sixth and ninth centuries; during that time, many monasteries produced a flourishing of art and learning that missionaries took to a suffering European continent in the wake of the Roman Empire’s collapse. One of these missionary saints and scholar is Saint Columba, or we say St. Colmcille in Irish, the Patron Saint of Derry and one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland. What is important to know about Colmcille is he came from a time which is prewritten history in Ireland. So like Saint Brigid, all we have is mythology. Saint Patrick wrote two letters – so we have a link to his thoughts. We have very little information about the life of Colmcille except what we get from biographies written about him 100 years after his death.

St. Colmcille is one of Ireland’s three patron saints and the only one that is not recognized by a public holiday. The other two are St. Brigid and of course, St. Patrick. His feast day is June 9, the day he died in the year 597 AD, at the impressive age of 75. Colmcille was born on December 7, 521 in Gartin, in Co. Donegal. He was known as Columba, a Latin version of Colum. The ‘Cille’ suffix that was added to his name means ‘of the churches.’ On his father’s side, he was the great-great-grandson of the famed Niall of the Nine Hostages – an Irish high king of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The modern-day Donegal village of Glencolmcille is named in his honor. A young Colmcille entered the priesthood at the age of 20 when he became a pupil of Clonard Abbey, situated on the Boyne River in modern day Co. Meath. When a cousin gave him some land in the town of Derry, he decided to start his own monastery. This allowed him to travel throughout Northern Ireland teaching the pagans about Christianity. Colmcille founded some 30 monasteries in just 10 years, inspiring many people with his personal holiness.

Colmcille was no angel, however. His strong personality and forceful preaching ruffled feathers and in 563 AD he was accused of starting a war between two tribes. The battle resulted in the loss of 3,000 lives. Colmcille borrowed a Psalter belonging to his old master Finian of Movilla and copied the manuscript without permission. Finian objected and demanded the copy be given over to him. A quarrel ensued and the matter was presented to the High King of Ireland, Diarmait mac Cerbaill, who ruled in favor of Finian famously saying, “To every cow belongs to a calf; to every book its copy.” Colmcille did not accept the ruling, objecting to the limitations placed on spreading God’s word. After the death of Prince Curnan of Connaught – who Colmcille was

meant to protect – a number of clerics and scholars threatened to excommunicate him. Instead, Colmcille was sentenced by the High King never to see Ireland again and was exiled to Scotland with 12 companions. He settled on a bleak Scottish Island called Iona where he would spend most of his remaining years.

In 575 Colmcille was persuaded to visit Ireland to mediate a dispute between the high king and the league of poets. Insisting on remaining faithful to the terms of his exile, that he never ‘see’ Ireland again, he travelled blindfolded. His considerable reputation was respected by everyone in Ireland. He spoke to the assembled nobles and clergy with such force and authority that the king was persuaded to calm hostilities. He was a renowned ‘man of letters,’ wrote several hymns and has been credited with having transcribed over 300 books and manuscripts.

On August 22, 565, St. Colmcille is said to have encountered the Loch Ness Monster – which has been interpreted as the first ever reference to the mythical Scottish beast. Traveling in Scotland, Colmcille had to cross Loch Ness, but Nessie had other ideas. Raising his hand to make the sign of the cross, Colmcille commanded the beast, saying “You will go no further, and won’t touch man, go back at once.” At the voice of the saint, the monster fled. The local pagans were amazed and converted to Christianity based on the miracle.

A number of miracles have been attributed to St. Colmcille – such as healing people with diseases, expelling malignant spirits, subduing wild beasts, calming storms, and even returning the dead to life. He is also said to have performed ‘agricultural miracles’ that would hold a special significance to the common people of Ireland and the British Isles, such as when he casted a demon out of a pail and restored spilt milk to its container.

As well as being one of the three patron saints of Ireland, St. Colmcille is also the patron saint of the city of Derry – where he founded a monastic settlement in 540 AD. The Church of Ireland Cathedral in Derry is also dedicated to St. Columba. Ireland’s Aer Lingus has named one of its Airbus airplanes St. Columba in commemoration of the saint. There are numerous parishes dedicated to Colmcille within the Presbyterian, Anglican, and Catholic churches throughout the United States and Canada.

St. Colmcille spent the rest of his life on Iona praying, fasting, and teaching his monks to read and copy the scriptures. He died on Iona and was buried in 597 by his monks in the abbey he created. In 794 the Vikings descended on Iona and plundered much of the relics Colmcille had procured in his life as an intellectual.

---

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Dooley Division  
Patrick Shea  
3312 Hard Rock Court  
Henrico, VA 23230-1945

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Street»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

