



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.

I hereby apply for admission into the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., and agree that my reception and continuance in said Order shall depend on the truthfulness of my answers to the questions which are hereto attached, which answers are made by me for the purpose of gaining admitted to the order.

TO BE A MEMBER YOU MUST BE A PRACTICING ROMAN CATHOLIC AND BE OF IRISH HERITAGE BY BIRTH OR DESCENT. (Only Exception: Clergy need not be Irish.)

Please type or print clearly

My Name is:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code

Occupation: Home Phone:

E-Mail Address: Work Phone:

Age Date of Birth/...../..... Irish by: Birth Descent

Mother's maiden name:

Are you a Roman Catholic: Yes No Name of your Parish

Have you complied with your religious duties within the past 12 months: Yes No

Do you belong to any Society to which the Catholic Church is opposed: Yes No

Were you ever previously a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Yes No

If you were a member before please give the City, State, Division # and reason for withdrawal

I do solemnly pledge my sacred word and honor that the answers I have given to the above questions are true.

Applicant Signature Date/...../.....

Return to: AOH (Attn: Financial Secretary), Post Office Box 667, Locust Grove, VA 22508

PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify on my honor as a member that I the applicant is known by me to be of good character, a practicing Roman Catholic, and worthy to become a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Proposer's Signature

Date/...../.....

PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that this application has been read to me at a regular meeting and the applicant has been elected a member of this division by the members present.

President's Signature

Date/...../.....

STANDING COMMITTEE:

The Standing Committee has investigated the applicant and recommends him for membership.

Standing Committee Signature

Date/...../.....

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

I hereby certify that the member has paid the initiation fee/dues \$.....

Financial Secretary's Signature

Date/...../.....



The Ancient Order of Hibernians can trace its name to 1641 and its motto "*Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity*" to the Defenders of 1565 Ireland. The mission at that time was to protect priests who risked immediate death for keeping the Catholic Faith alive. When England implemented the Penal Laws, Irishmen and women were stripped of every basic human right for more than 100 years (1697-1826). During that period, the mission expanded to include not only aid and comfort to priests, but to the Irish people as a whole.

AOH in America
www.aoh.com

In the mid-19th century, the Irish arrived on our shores impoverished, ragged, mostly Gaelic-speaking, and worst of all, Catholic. Several Irish immigrant societies in the U.S. provided social welfare benefits to arriving immigrants. One local society, the Hibernian Friendship Society of Arlington Virginia (founded in 1831), recognized the need for a nation-wide organization. As more Irish Immigrant Societies agreed, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. AOH in America became the most recent link in the evolution of the ancient Irish Catholic societies. In response to a nation-wide rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic sentiment, Hibernians were again called to protect the Catholic clergy and parish churches from vandalism and arson. In 1843, the AOH gained national notoriety in fighting off a mob intent on burning Saint Patrick Cathedral (New York) to the ground. A decade later (ca 1854), Know Nothing Party bigots attacked and burned Irish and other immigrant communities across the country and lobbied for enactment of laws to restrict immigration and limit Irish Catholic participation in the "American Dream." These physical and psychological attacks on Irish communities provoked AOH to continue the defense of Catholicism even to the extreme of mounting armed guards to fight off would be desecrators of consecrated properties.

The General Thomas F. Meagher Division
www.fredericksburgaoh.org

Father John J. Munley (St Mary Parish) was instrumental in founding the General Thomas F. Meagher Division in November 1987. It was named in honor of that great Irish-American statesman, patriot and commander of the famed Irish Brigade. Within our local community, General Meagher Division brothers volunteer and raise money for local Catholic charities. For example, proceeds from our annual *Shamrock Charity Golf Classic* and *Trip for Two to Ireland raffle* support Birth Right, Mary's Shelter, the Paul-Stefan Foundation, fund scholastic awards for local Catholic elementary school students accepted at area Catholic High Schools, and parish work camps. Each year we present a boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade Memorial (Fredericksburg City Dock) to commemorate Irish Brigade losses in Battle of Fredericksburg. We participate in Irish cultural events, including Irish-American Heritage Month and St. Patrick celebrations, parades and area International Festivals, and host our annual *Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration* each September.

Our monthly meetings (third Tuesday, 7:30 PM) include a formal business meeting followed by a social segment including guest speakers on current issues in Ireland, and Irish/Irish-American history, and cultural discussions.

We meet at the Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401