



# LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1

Jefferson, County, Kentucky

P.O. Box 43831, Louisville, KY 40253



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## Celebrate Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, August 21

To mark the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, LAOH members will attend Mass together on Sunday, August 21, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 5505 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40291. Please wear your sashes. This will be a great opportunity to worship together and meet members of our community. The regular Sunday liturgy will be celebrated, but we will be able to spread awareness of Our Lady's miraculous apparition almost 140 years ago in Ireland.

On August 21, 1879, at about 8 pm, fifteen people in the village of Knock, County Mayo witnessed an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary which lasted for about three hours during a driving rainstorm. Against the south gabled end of the parish church, witnesses saw the Blessed Mother, her husband St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist. Behind them and a little to the left of St. John was a plain altar holding a cross and a lamb with adoring angels hovering above.



Those who witnessed the apparition stood in the pouring rain for up to two hours reciting the Rosary. When the apparition began, it was daylight but when it became very dark, witnesses could still see the figures very clearly - they appeared to be bathed in a bright whitish light. The apparition did not flicker or move in any way. The witnesses reported that the ground around the figures remained completely dry during the apparition although the wind was blowing from the south. Afterwards, however, the ground at the gable became wet.

The apparition was first seen by Mary McLoughlin, 45 and Mary Byrne, 29. They summoned neighbors from nearby; witnesses ranged in age from five up to 74.

An ecclesiastical commission of inquiry was established by the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Dr. John MacHale within six weeks of the apparition. The Commission's final verdict was that the testimony of all the witnesses taken as a whole is trustworthy and satisfactory. At a second Commission of inquiry in 1936, the surviving witnesses confirmed the evidence they gave to the first Commission.

Many Irish people believe that Our Lady was sending a message of comfort to the faithful of Ireland by appearing just three decades after the "Great Hunger" to people in the poorest part of the country. Irish farmers were still struggling against blight and the cruelty of absent landlords, which led to the Land War that gripped Connaught from 1879 to 1882. The Blessed Mother seemed to be directing attention to the Mass through the symbolism of the altar and the sacrificial lamb.



The original parish church of St. John the Baptist has been replaced by the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland. Thousands of pilgrims flock to the shrine, and miraculous cures have been reported since 1880. **The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock** will take place from the **14<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August**. The theme for this year is “Merciful like the Father,” in keeping with the Jubilee.

## Sign up for St. Joe’s Picnic, Saturday, August 13



Volunteers are still needed to work in the LAOH booth (#62) during the late-night time slot from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

If you can help, please sign up via the email sent out in July. It contains the full schedule.

The website for St. Joseph’s also provides details about the picnic, plus information on parking:

<http://sjkids.org/picnic/>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, August 10 Officers’ Meeting**  
2330 Alta Avenue, 7:00 p.m.

Although this meeting is open to General Membership, due to limited space, please RSVP to Julia if you want to attend.

**Saturday, August 13 Little Helpers Mass & Procession** at the Cathedral of the Assumption  
7:00 a.m. Archbishop Kurtz will be officiating

**Saturday, August 13 St. Joe's Picnic**

**Tuesday, August 16 General Membership Meeting** Boys & Girl's Haven, 2301 Goldsmith Ln. 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, August 18 Joint AOH/LAOH Executive Board Meeting** 2330 Alta Avenue 7:00 p.m. (closed meeting)

### New National LAOH Officers

PRESIDENT Patricia A. O’Connell, Peoria, IL

VICE PRESIDENT Carol J. Sheyer, Hamilton, OH



SECRETARY Karen Keane, Slingerlands, NY

TREASURER Marilyn Madigan, Cleveland OH

IRISH HISTORIAN Dee Wallace, Aiken, SC

MISSIONS & CHARITIES OFFICER Mary Ann Lubinsky, Pottsville, PA

CATHOLIC ACTION OFFICER Colleen Bowers, Pittsburgh, PA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT / NATIONAL ORGANIZER Mary Hogan, Staten Island, NY

### Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

*Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in time of distress and comforted them in deepest sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise, “Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find.”*

*Help me to remember that each person I see is a child of God, precious in His sight. Give me the grace I need to welcome the stranger, defend the oppressed, and give freely to those in need. Queen of Peace, intercede for all who suffer as a result of injustice and guide us to eternal life with your Son our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*