



The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest Catholic lay organization in America. Officially formed in New York in 1836, it was born in anger centuries earlier in Ireland, after successive invasions by those who tried to master the Irish, and alter their Gaelic life style. Inflexible opponents like the Vikings were fought until their power was broken; others, like the Normans, were absorbed until they became as Irish as the Irish themselves. Through it all, the Irish maintained their language, traditions, and religion. But in the Sixteenth century, a concentrated attack, unswervingly focused on the most precious part of their heritage - their religion - and proved to be their greatest challenge.

After several attacks on Irish and Church property, the Irish immigrant resorted to a familiar tactic. Those who had been members of the AOH in Ireland, banded together in this new land, and in 1836, formed an American branch of their Order. True to their purpose, they stood guard to defend Church property, and though actual attacks were few and far between, the long, cold, and lonely nights of vigil were many. The early AOH in America remained a secret society, and little is known of its activities except that it provided a monetary stipend to immigrants who arrived as members in good standing from the Irish Order, and they assisted Irish immigrants in obtaining jobs and social services. Quite naturally, the early AOH Divisions were nurseries for the preservation of Irish culture and traditions in America. Naturally, the early AOH Divisions were nurseries for the preservation of Irish culture and traditions in America.

In large measure due to the significant contributions of the Irish in defending the Union during America's Civil War, it became unfashionable to be anti-Irish, and the bigoted Know Nothings faded away, taking their No Irish Need Apply signs with them. The AOH, on the other hand, grew stronger, following Irish immigrants as they worked their way across the country. As the need for militant support of their Church dwindled, the AOH shifted its purpose to charitable activities in support of the Church's missions, community service, and the promotion and preservation of their Irish cultural heritage in America. Today they stand, not only as the oldest Catholic Lay organization in America, but as the largest Irish society in the world with Divisions in Ireland, and 49 of the United States.

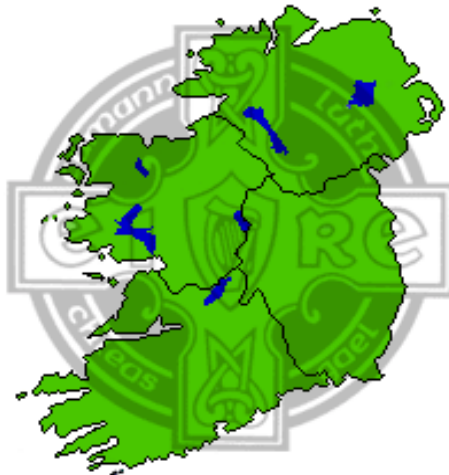
The AOH in America is partitioned into Divisions, County Boards, and State Boards, and is governed by a National Board elected every two years. The Division is the basic unit in the Order, and membership in a Division is membership in the Order. Even County, State, and National

Officers, maintain membership in a local Division. Annual dances, concerts, and parades sponsored by all levels of the Order raise millions for charity, while providing a showcase for the positive contributions of the Irish to every walk of American life. Divisions usually support local charities within their geographic areas, while sending a portion of their monies to higher levels for support of state, national, and international charities. Subcommittees are often established to perform specific functions such as the administration of an annual Feis or Festival, the raising of a historic memorial, or providing instructions in such Irish subjects as history, bagpiping, dancing, and language.

The many Divisions and Hibernian Halls across the country have also traditionally provided a welcome for new immigrants. Here, the unique art, dance, music, and other interests of the Irish are fostered and preserved, making the AOH Hall a home away from home for many. Together, they are at the forefront of support for issues concerning the Irish, such as Emigration Reform, MacBride legislation, and the Right to Life. They never forget their ancestral homeland either, and can always be found actively lobbying for, praying for, and working for the total independence of a united 32-county Ireland, as their constitution avows: "by all means constitutional and lawful."

As a potential Member to our Order you are seeking admittance to the finest and fastest growing Irish Catholic organization in the world. Our Catholic faith and our values are exemplified in our motto:

Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Application For Membership

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 upon the truthfulness of my answers to the questions which are attached, and my answers are made by me for the purpose of obtaining admission into the Order. You must be Irish by birth or descent and a practicing Roman Catholic to become a member.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip (+4) _____
 Birth Date: _____
 Email: (H) _____
 Email: (W) _____
 Phone (H): _____
 Phone (W): _____
 Occupation: _____
 Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Are you Roman Catholic? YES NO
 Are you Irish? YES NO by: BIRTH DESCENT

Have you complied with your religious duties within the past twelve (12) months? YES NO
 Do you belong to any society(s) to which the Catholic Church is opposed? YES NO
 Parish Name: _____
 Have you ever been a member of the AOH? YES NO
 If so, name Division/State/County: _____

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

Applicant's Signature: _____

Dated this _____ **of** _____ **20** _____

I hereby certify on my honor as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, that I am acquainted with the applicant. I know him to be a practicing Roman Catholic, and one worthy in every way to become a member of this Order.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

We want to know your interests!
PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Irish History
- Irish Northern Aid
- Missions/Charities
- Catholic Action
- Catholic Schools
- Political Education
- Irish Language Lessons
- Irish Step Dance Lessons
- Comahltas Music Sessions
- Golf Tournaments
- Family Picnics
- Dinner/Dance
- Fundraising
- Marketing/Publicity
- Service Projects
- Other

Please explain: _____

DIVISION USE ONLY

REPORT ON APPLICATION

This committee, was referred to the applicant, and would respectfully report that we have investigated the qualifications of said applicant for membership and we recommend him.

Committee Chair: _____

DIVISION PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this application has been read by me at a regular meeting and that the applicant has been elected by the membership of this Division on the _____ day of _____ 20____

President _____

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the initiation fee of \$____.00 has been paid on this _____ day of _____ 20____

Financial Secretary _____

**MEMBERSHIP
NUMBER:** _____

About Father John P. Washington

Born as one of seven children to Irish immigrants Frank and Mary Washington, John was a religious boy from a young age, rapidly becoming an altar boy at his local church in Newark, New Jersey, where he grew up. A talented sportsman and intelligent and hard-working child, he performed well at school and was accepted into Seton Hall Preparatory School, then located in South Orange, New Jersey, where he completed high school and took courses designed to prepare him for the priesthood. Following his graduation he moved to the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University and took minor orders in 1933, being ordained a priest in 1935.

Father Washington's first parish was at St. Genevieve's in Elizabeth, New Jersey. In 1938, he was assigned to St. Stephen's in Kearny, New Jersey. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack of December 7, 1941, he received his appointment as a chaplain in the United States Army, reporting for active duty on May 9, 1942. In November 1942, he reported to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Massachusetts and met Chaplains Fox, Goode and Poling at Chaplains School at Harvard. In January 1943 he joined them on board the Dorchester for the trip to Europe via Greenland, and set off on the fatal journey. The Four Chaplains, sometimes referred to as the "Dorchester Chaplains," gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

About Division 7

Division 7 meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the American Legion, Joseph E. Frobisher Post 99, 314 Belgrove Drive, Kearny.

US Mail

c/o 227 Highland Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032

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**ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA**

**Father John P. Washington
Division 7
Kearny, New Jersey**



**APPLICATION
FOR
MEMBERSHIP**