

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc



Organized in 1894

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Dear Sister Hibernians,

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in our 130th year will be celebrating a special milestone this year. We hope that you will be able to join us. The Centennial of The Nuns of the Battlefield Monument will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024. The Centennial Commemoration will include a Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dedication of the Wayside Marker at the Monument and a dinner at the Army Navy Club.

The Nuns of the Battlefield memorial was erected by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) and dedicated as a U.S. national memorial in 1924. The monument is located at Rhode Island Ave. across the street from St. Matthew's Cathedral, The Monument honors Catholic nuns who served as nurses during the U.S. Civil War. These sister-nurses provided medical and spiritual care to soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

Following the Civil War, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (then known as the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians) believed that it was important that the Nation and history remember and honor the women religious who provided critical nursing and hospital administration expertise to the United States during the Civil War. In most cases, this expertise was unavailable in the military or in general society.

A majority of the nuns serving in the Civil War were Irish born or Irish American. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in the United States to provide resources and community to newly arrived Irish women. This connection, of Irish heritage and Catholic faith, between the Nuns of the Civil War and the LAOH prompted the LAOH National President, Dr. Ellen Ryan Jolly to pursue her goal of commissioning and erecting the Monument and having the U.S. Congress declare the Nuns of the Battlefield a national monument. We should also note that the Monument is one of only a very few Civil War statues or memorials that recognize the contributions of women.

The LAOH today, still proudly remember the contributions of these Sisters annually at the Monument, with a program attended by LAOH National Officers and members from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and other states.

www.ladiesaoh.com

It is with this background that the LAOH requested the National Park Service to have a wayside marker at the monument, so that the general public may know of the great work these women religious provided to our country and role of the LAOH in making the Monument possible.

We would be honored if you would consider attending this important commemoration. More details and formal invitations will be sent at a later date. For more information please contact me at natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com or my personal email at memadigan@gmail.com or call 216-470-3773

Sincerely

Marilyn Madigan

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National President Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians