

After losing most of the members in World War I, the Ancient Order of Hibernians went dormant until the Tara Division was reformed.

Chartered in 1997 by Archbishop Donoghue and nine other Irish Catholic Atlanta residents, the Tara Division held its first meeting in the library of the Cathedral of Christ the King. Recruiting through professional relationships, tables after Masses, and the internet, membership grew to more than 50 Irish-Catholic men of Atlanta and clergy of the Atlanta Archdiocese.

For more information about the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Atlanta, please visit [www.aohatlanta.com](http://www.aohatlanta.com).

### Catholic community in Toccoa saluted for its works

TOCCOA—St. Mary Church was recently lauded by the Salvation Army for its community service.

Parish leaders were presented a certificate of appreciation for their ongoing efforts to assist men, women and families in need in Stephens County for 2016. The parish was one of four faith communities recognized. The parish is about 90 miles northeast of Atlanta.

"We are a small, but very giving parish embarking forward in 2017 and heeding the words of our Archbishop Gregory, 'love your neighbor as yourself,'" wrote Gary Cortellino in an email.

The Angel Tree, sponsored by the Toccoa/Stephens County Salvation Army, sought assistance with toys, clothing and other necessities for children and families during the Christmas season. The church placed a Christmas tree for parishioners to take a tag requesting an item for a child or family. One St. Mary's family donated three new children's bicycles, including new helmets and safety gear, so a family could have a happy Christmas morning.

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Conference and the parish have also responded to the needs of the poor in Stephens County, which does not have a homeless shelter for emergency placement. The burden usually falls on the Salvation Army, which then reaches for financial assistance to place the people into a local hotel until housing can be found.

### College students grow in faith, community at annual Awakening retreat

TIGER—Scores of college-age Catholics renewed their faith at the annual Awakening retreat, held at Camp Covecrest in Tiger in January.

The weekend is a Catholic retreat organized by young adults for young adults. This overnight retreat ran from Friday, Jan. 27, to Sunday, Jan. 29, ending with Mass.

"The retreat is designed to awaken your faith, bring you fellowship, and to strengthen your relationship with God during

your young adult years. The retreat was facilitated by the Office of Discipleship.

Longtime parishioners and leaders of the retreat shared their experience and transformative journey.

"The people who are sinners that are sinners that know



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