



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2017



Brother Hibernians, \_\_\_\_\_



I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Welcome aboard to new members Kevin Clohessey, Thomas Dunlavey, Michael Diskin, John Edwards, and Thomas Funesti. Many thanks to all of you who supported the DuPlessis Fundraiser. Congratulations and many thanks to Jack O'Connor, Larry DeGennaro, Dan Callanan and so many others who are far too numerous to name for all your hard work at another successful Senior Citizen's Luncheon. Congratulations to all who were elected at the joint meeting as honorees for the 2018 parade: Grand Marshal Emmet Woods, Hibernian of the Year Bill Young, Aide to GM NYC Teresa Morris, Businessman Neil Acer, and Parade Commander Frank Duffy. Many thanks to those of you who joined us to honor Frank at our reception for him on Francis T. Duffy Day on December 1. Frank is a true hero and it will be an honor to march behind him and all the other fantastic honorees on March 18. Congrats to all of the Division officers who were re-elected at our December meeting. Many thanks go out to Sean and Kim Walsh, Kevin Powers, Roddy Harrington and all our volunteers for a fantastic Christmas Party for children with special needs.

Don't miss the chance to attend our final drawing party Sunday, December 17 and a shot at winning 12 grand cash right before Christmas. Get your ticket at the pub or call Bill Lee at 845-558-4148. Join us for a great time at our Wren Night on December 26. Larry and Denise DeGennaro are set to make this a merry Christmas for at least 15 local families so please support our Adopt a Family Fund by dropping off whatever donations you can spare to Pete Dunne or John Gannon at the pub.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rich Lenihan's dad Richard and Tom Brennan's mother, Patricia. Frank Aiello underwent surgery in Englewood Hospital to insert numerous stents and is now recovering at Helen Hayes and please keep Sean Walsh's mother-in-law in your prayers.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our wounded warriors and their families.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,  
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*

## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

*President*  
**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

*Vice President*  
**CHARLES PARNOW**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

**12-17 POG Final Drawing**

**12-26 Wren Night**

**12-31 New Year's Eve Party  
at Hall**

**1-12 Mark Thompson**



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## LAOH

Mary O'Sullivan and Tracey Dickey, co chaired and organized a great LAOH Division 3 Christmas party. We had a nice turnout. The food was delicious, games were fun and raffle prizes plentiful. I hope to see many of you at our January 10th meeting where we will be installing our 2018-2020 board members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and their families.

***Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,  
Terry McGeever, President***

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Ho Ho Ho, its that time of the year again. This year our naughty list is bigger then ever. Winding down to see who will be Santa. The three finalists are Frank McDonagh, Ray Ray Foiles and Warren Hennessy. Looks like Warren is a shoo in. Our very own Captain has applied for a grant to have a large, really large keg holder for his hacienda. The freeze your arse golf tourney was a rousing success, thanks to Joe Wrafter and his cracked crew at Broadacres. What a perfect place for Joe to work. Our members love to play there, many having resided there at some point. I really did like the view from my room on the top floor. Nice to see Chris doing a guest appearance at the pub on Saturday night. Some special wishes for presents for a few of the members as per their letter to Santy:

John Gannon - one more Sunday each week

CC- do you have to ask and a dog named Pookie

Pete Blickley- more commercials

Dennis Troy- an autographed picture of our outgoing Supervisor.

Coyle Brothers- another chance to play Gannon and Dunne a round of golf, fer get about it, they have a better chance of getting hit by lighting.

And to all ourselves members and families a healthy and happy Christmas, Ho Ho Ho. One more thing do not yell that on 8th Avenue. Don't forget Eddie all Day's Rocking New Years Eve Party at the AOH. And you thought Dick Clark was gone. Check out that hair.

***Pete (Engel) Dunne***

## DIVISION SKI TRIP TO BELLEAYRE MOUNTAIN

Dan Peterson and Chuck Parnow are once again coordinating the annual ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Last year's trip was a blast and includes the bus trip with breakfast, lunch and refreshments on the trip home. The cost stays the same as last year: \$90 for adults and \$80 for junior skiers (19 and under). We'll need to know the level of interest (as far as number of people signed up) by January 18, as that is when we must commit to the bus company. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the pub. First paid, first seated. Contact Chuck (Charles.Parnow@towerswatson.com) or Dan (sgtp3401@yahoo.com) for further info.

## GET YOUR POT O'GOLD TICKET NOW!

We gave out \$2000 in prizes on November 12th and will give out another \$12,000 on December 17th, including our grand prize of \$10,000 cash. You know what a great deal our raffle is- your \$100 ticket gets you and a guest admission to two drawing parties and you'll be supporting our many charitable endeavors and scholarships! Don't miss out, get your ticket from us now. Pick yours up at the pub or contact Bill Lee at 845-558-4148 or [mr.williamplee@gmail.com](mailto:mr.williamplee@gmail.com).

## WREN NIGHT

Tuesday, December 26th,  
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the  
Hibernian House

Join us for a grand Irish  
Tradition as our teams  
compete. All Are Welcome!

Coffee, Tea, Soda Bread,  
& Cash Bar

Admission: \$5 per person  
\$10 per family

Proceeds will benefit  
Lourdes Kids Helpers

## ED "ALL DAY'S" ROCKING NEW YEARS EVE BASH

12/31/17 8pm upstairs at the Hibernian House

Food, cash bar, party favors, karaoke with  
DJ Jimmy "Buddah"

\$15 pp, contact Ed at 917-974-9659

# History

## A Christmas Candle in the Window



We have all seen the beautiful tradition of placing candles in the windows at Christmas time. This tradition of placing candles in the windows of homes during the Christmas season was brought to America by Irish immigrants in the 19th century. However, beyond mere decoration, to Irish Americans these candles have a special significance. They reflect the fortitude and conviction of our Irish forebears to maintain the light of their faith through a dark and oppressive time.

Starting in the reign of the Tudors and continuing through the early part of the 19th century, it was a crime to be a Catholic in the British realm and specifically in her colony of Ireland. A series of laws, known to history as the Penal Laws, sought to reduce the Irish people to ignorant serfs and destroy their religious faith. The 1709 Penal Act demanded that Catholic priests take the Oath of Abjuration; an impossible requirement as it meant rejecting Catholicism's most basic tenet, that Christ is physically present in the Eucharist, and

other fundamental principles. Even if they paid lip service to the oath, all priests were required to register in their parish and could not travel beyond. Bishops were barred entirely from registering and any unregistered member of the Catholic clergy had to leave Ireland immediately. Without Bishops, it would be impossible to consecrate new priests; the goal was that Catholicism would die out within a generation.

Priests were hunted like wolves, the reward for the capture of a Bishop was from £50–100 and £10–20 for the capture of an unregistered priest; tremendous sums of money at the time. The priest himself would be charged with high treason punishable by death or transportation into slavery. Those who aided or harbored a priest faced equally severe punishment to themselves and families.

However the Irish will and faith could not be crushed so easily, no matter how powerful the despot. Priests remained in Ireland ministering to the faithful while

constantly fearing capture and aided by courageous members of the laity. This was especially true during the feast of Christmas; where the hope and promise of the Holiday was desperately needed to give encouragement to the faithful to persevere during those dark times.

The common practice would be for a member of the faithful to leave a candle in the window, which in the dark winter nights of Ireland before electric lighting could be seen at a considerable distance, and to leave the door unlocked as a sign to any priest hiding in the area that they would be welcomed and given shelter in the hopes of a Christmas mass. Needless to say, the candles also drew the attention of English authorities. However, when questioned, people would say the candle was to light the way to Bethlehem for Mary and Joseph and the door unlocked as a sign that while there may be “no room at the Inn”, the Holy Family would be welcomed in this house. The story had the desired effect, English authorities in their arrogance dismissed the candles and unlocked doors as harmless “Papish nonsense”. As a result, the light of the promise of Christ at Christmas was celebrated even in a world dark with oppression.

While the Penal Laws have been repealed, there are still forces today who would seek to destroy our faith and have us renounce our Irish heritage. In memory of our ancestors and to celebrate their courage, let us put a candle in the window at Christmas and let our faith and pride in our heritage shine out throughout the year.



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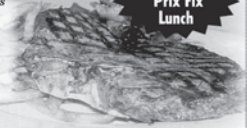
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