



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*December 2020*

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



We want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a healthy and safe holiday season. We recognize that it may look much more different than prior years, but we hope you find ways to connect with family and friends and give thanks for the blessings we have received.

Our next division meeting will be held virtually this Thursday, December 17 at 7:30pm. Look for an email in the day leading up to the meeting for a link to the meeting and instructions.

Congratulations to Frank Duffy on the renaming of Railroad Avenue for the one block on which the Hibernian House lies – PFC Francis T. Duffy Way. Thanks to the work of brothers Denis Troy and Neil Cosgrove on formalizing this recognition for Frank. Also, many thanks to the Hibernian House staff, led by Frank McDonagh and Pete Dunne, for pulling together a great day for all who attended.

The drawing for the 50/50 Fall fundraiser is Saturday, December 19th, so if you still want to get a ticket, make sure you do so soon. We're well in excess of 250 tickets at this point. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Again, thanks to Sean Walsh and team for all the work in a very different environment. And so many thanks to all who have bought a ticket – we recognize that for many, it is a sacrifice.

On the same day (Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in the morning), we've reconfigured our Special Needs Christmas party into a Covid-safe drive-through experience. Congratulations to Dermot Moore for helping organize and the many volunteers who are stepping up (and glad we're getting the snow out of the forecast ahead of time!).

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for repose of the souls of brother Tommy Boyle, brother Donald Kivlehan, Michael Diskin, Sr. (father of member Michael Diskin, Jr.), John Crowe (brother of member Paul Crowe), and Robert Emmett Keating (brother of member Paul Keating). Please continue to pray for Kevin Donohue, Tom Regan, Dan Callanan and Gene Flood who are in various states of recovery. Please also keep our law enforcement professionals and military in your prayers.

Again, a holy Christmas to you and yours.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

**Chuck Parnow**

## Division Elections



At our December meeting, we will hold elections for all Officer positions in Division 3. Any additional nominations to be made the night of the election will require that person to be present at that December meeting.

## Ladies' AOH



As this year is coming to an end, the LAOH are continually keeping our Community, our Family and Friends, and the LAOH & AOH Members in our prayers. The LAOH was not able to have our annual Christmas Dinner Party this year, which is saddening to us all; but it is better to be safe during this pandemic. We want to wish you all a very Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! We hope that you are able to be with family and friends and may God Bless everyone and stay safe!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
**Teresa Hartey-Adametz, President**

## Hibernian House



Another key charitable effort that goes on is the Christmas Family Fund. The guys are deciding who's naughty and who's nice and finishing off the shopping list. If you would like to contribute, please drop by the pub and hand off your contribution to any bartender, or you can mail it to Hibernian House, 28 Railroad Ave., Pearl River, NY 10965 (make out check to AOH).



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## December History

### A Historical Reflection

The end of a year is a time of reflection and evaluation, and so we should ask why we have a history lesson at every meeting and in every newsletter? One can argue that the history of Ireland and Irish America is often sad; a story of a people who were conquered, oppressed, driven from their homes when a crop failure was turned into an opportunity to clear the land of families who lived there for centuries, and where those who fled faced discrimination in their new homes.

One can view Irish history as “a glass half empty” and say that it is “depressing,” or “yeah, our forebears had it tough back then, but what has that to do with me in the here and now?” Or one can look beyond the names and the long-ago dates and realize a common theme: that no matter what they faced, and the Irish have met more than their share of challenges, they have always overcome. At the heart of their perseverance are four core values: their determination, their faith, their belief in family, and commitment to community.

That is the real lesson of Irish history and one that we need to be reminded of again and again to strengthen us as we face new challenges. Many of the problems we face as a nation and a world today are because we have lost those four core values. For too many, “community” is how many virtual friends they have on Facebook, friends who will never call them when they are ill or experience a loss. When you don’t have faith, when you believe that everything depends on you alone, it can be a very lonely and crushing experience. For too many, determination has given way to apathy and despair.

It may not be politically correct, but the Irish are an exceptional people. Our history and logic say that we should no longer exist, but we do. We have withstood Vikings, Elizabeth I, Cromwell, William of Orange, Trevelyan, and the “Know-Nothings.” They said of us that we were incapable of being “True Americans,” but look at any American role of honor and notice how many names are of Irish origin. “Silly, Drunken Paddy” has left their mark in every field of human endeavor.

Yet, having survived all this, we face our biggest threat. Too many kids are growing up without their heritage. Too many school curricula minimize the Irish contribution to America, sweeping aside the challenges our forebears faced as an inconvenient truth as they pursue a politically correct narrative that presents a distorted rainbow of diversity where green is conspicuously absent. How tragic, how ironic would it be if today’s schools should succeed where the Penal Laws failed in eliminating the Irish consciousness? We need to make our homes the new “hedge schools.”

At this time of year, so associated with giving, let us remember that heritage is a gift you give, not receive; a remarkable gift where the more you give it, the stronger it gets, but if you don’t share, it goes stale and withers. When so many of the traditional activities have been curtailed, this Christmas make an effort to share your family history with the young, far better that the young people in your life should learn who they are and their family story from you than a DNA test.

In the year 2020, never have so many looked forward to turning the calendar. While it may still seem far off, 2020, the year of COVID-19, will likewise soon be in the history books as a landmark event; it is up to us now to determine which direction that landmark takes us. COVID-19 has been particularly hard on us as a community. History tells us that our forebears have beaten even more formidable challenges. At this time, as we see the light of Christmas in a dark world and the light of a potential end to this devastating pandemic, let us resolve that we will keep the best Irish tradition alive: that as a community, we come back from every challenge stronger than ever.