



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

October 2021

Brother Hibernians _____



It seems like we blinked and went straight from Labor Day to Halloween. I hope those who were hit hard by the flooding in September from the remnants of Hurricane Ida have been able to recover. I know there were a number of us who really were 'under water' for quite a while.

Our next division meeting to be held **in person this Friday, October 22nd at 8:00pm**. Given the time of year, we have several important annual activities to be covered, including holding the Hibernian House elections, and the first call for Division Officer nominations.

The focus of the newsletter this month is the calendar of upcoming events. There are a lot of upcoming events to get on your calendar – whether it's just to attend or if you can volunteer your services.

It is especially important for us to get some momentum behind the Pot of Gold tickets. Keep in mind, we focus on having only two main fundraisers in the year – Pot of Gold and our golf tournament – and neither of those have happened due to the pandemic. It's really important that we work to help it come back strong.

Also, be on the look-out for details in the near future for times and details for the return of our "Rambling House" nights to be held on select Fridays in the upstairs hall. A great night of traditional Irish music, storytelling and craic is sure to be had....

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mike McGovern's mother, Elizabeth Darcy McGovern, and Chris Cawley's brother, John Cawley (Division 5 Member, former County President, Parade Grand Marshal and Hibernian of the Year) – may they rest in peace. Also keep in your prayers Tom Dolan who is in rehab, recovering from a broken leg. And continue to keep our law enforcement professionals, healthcare workers and members of the armed services in your prayers.

As always, we pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Hibernian House



Things have settled in at the downstairs pub – the survivor pool is winnowing down and many gather each Sunday to bemoan your NY football team of choice. Dart-players (Dart-throwers? Darters? Dartsmen?) please note – the Hibernian House will be a sponsoring organization in the Pearl River Thursday night Dart League and we'll be forming a team. If you're interested in playing, reach out to Phil Lane.

Division 3 Calendar



Following is a list of events that are upcoming – whether they be Pearl River Hibernian, County, or State AOH over the next two months:

- Saturday, October 30th: **St. Patrick's Cathedral NYS AOH Memorial Mass** - NYS AOH is sponsoring this Mass for all deceased AOH and LAOH members that passed away during the pandemic. The Mass starts at 1pm sharp, and you must be seated by 12:30pm).
- Saturday, October 30th: **Halloween Howl** – Halloween Party at the Hibernian House on Saturday, October 30th from 8pm to midnight. Costumes encouraged but not required. 50/50 to benefit the Family Fund. If you have Halloween decorations you're willing to lend or donate, please drop them off or bring them to Friday night's meeting!
- Saturday, November 6th: **Major Degree** – This will be held in conjunction with the semi-annual NYS AOH meeting in Monroe, NY. The ceremony will be held at the Sacred Heart Church Hall at 26 Still Road, Monroe, NY 10950. Registration begins at 11:30 (bring your national card!) and the ceremony starts at 1:00pm. The Division will pick up fees, and the County is looking to arrange a bus if there's enough demand (so let us know if you're coming asap).
- Friday, November 12th: **Jukebox Bingo** – the Ladies' AOH will be holding their fundraiser this night.
- Friday, November 19th: **Night at the Races Fundraiser** – This Friday evening event will be held at the Hibernian House with all the 'horse racing', special raffles, food and beverages you've come to expect. This will benefit our Family Fund – Christmas is right around the corner!
- Saturday, November 20th: **Seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon** – Our annual benefit for the senior community returns! They start showing early, and we'll need cooks, hosts and servers – before and after help. This is a good opportunity for those teenagers looking for community service hours.
- Sunday, November 21st: **Pot of Gold First Drawing Party** – Sunday afternoon upstairs at the Hibernian House. Get your tickets now – one of the best parties of the year!

Ladies' AOH



The LAOH Division 3 are happy to be back to having our monthly meetings at the Hibernian House. We have been getting several new Members joining our Division. On November 12th the LAOH will be hosting a Jukebox Bingo event. The cost is \$40.00. For further information you can contact Linda Sheridan (914) 772-6626 or see the flyer at the Hibernian House. May God continue to Bless everyone and please stay safe!

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

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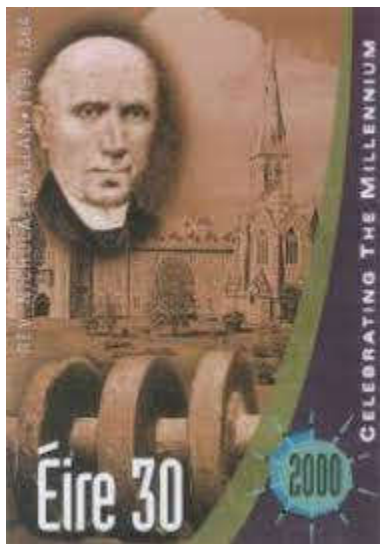
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Father Nicholas Callan, Forgotten Genius



Father Nicholas Callan was born in 1799 in County Louth. He was the fifth of six children born to a prosperous farming family. Noting that their son was remarkably clever, they sent him to the best private school available, which was run by a Presbyterian Clergyman (in the wake of the recent Penal Laws, there were few Catholic school options) while entrusting his Catholic education to the local parish priest.

Both pious and intellectually prodigious, he was accepted at the newly established Catholic college at Maynooth. Here, Callan was greatly influenced by his Professor of Natural Philosophy (the 19th-century term for the science which we would call Physics and a philosophy that encouraged experimentation), Fr. Cornelius Denvir. Ordained in 1823, Callan traveled to Rome to pursue his Doctor of Divinity which he obtained in less than three years. Callan had developed a keen interest in the new fields of electricity and magnetism, which was reinforced with his meeting of two Italian pioneers in the field: Luigi Galvani (discoverer of bioelectricity) and Alessandro Volta (the inventor of the battery).

Callan returned to Maynooth in 1827, where he took over the role of Professor of Natural Philosophy from his mentor, Fr. Cornelius Denvir, who had recently been confirmed a Bishop. Over the course of a 38-year career at Maynooth, Callan would publish twenty books on religious topics in addition to his teaching duties, one of which was cited by John Henry Newman as influencing his conversion to Catholicism.

However, Fr. Callan never lost his fascination with the science of electricity and magnetism and continued his research and experimentation in the new field. Being a pioneer in a new field of science, where proper instrumentation was still lacking, required some unorthodox out-of-the-box thinking. In order to determine the voltage generated by his apparatus, Callan would have a chain of fifteen students hold hands while the ones on the ends touched the terminals; he would gauge the power by how high they jumped with the resulting shock. Another time he constructed what was then the largest battery in the world by linking 577 smaller batteries; Callan tested the strength of an electromagnet it powered by inviting strongmen from the surrounding farm community to try to beat it in a tug of war. Not without humor, it was noted that Fr. Callan was often in the habit of turning off the device without warning at demonstrations to see the team of testers go tumbling.

However, Fr. Callan's greatest achievement was that he discovered that if he wound two coils of wire around an iron core, with one coil attached to a low voltage battery and then that current was interrupted, it produced a high voltage current in the second coil; the more frequently he interrupted the current, the greater the spark. Cannibalizing the working from a grandfather clock, he was able to interrupt the current twenty times a second and produce over 60,000 volts, the greatest amount of artificial electricity produced up to that time.

The device that Fr. Callan had invented was the induction coil and the forerunner to the transformer which we use daily in our cars and to deliver power to our homes and businesses. Fr. Callan also invented the 'Maynooth Battery,' which was of a much simpler and cheaper design than the batteries of the time, making batteries much more available for research and a form of galvanization to protect the iron he used in his experiments.

(continued on next page)

Fr. Callan was interested in science for the pursuit of advancing knowledge, not for advancing himself; any royalties he received he donated to the poor. Sadly, his nobility had the unintended consequence of this great mind and its achievements being unrecognized. In one case, another has claimed credit for Fr. Callan's work, which has recently been disproved. That oversight was somewhat corrected when in the millennial year of 2000, Fr. Callan was honored in a series of stamps issued by the Irish Government that also included Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, and Marie Curie. Fr. Callan is yet another example of the Irish being omitted from the textbooks that we must make every effort to remember.