



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

September, 2016



Brother Hibernians, _____



I hope you and your families all enjoyed your summer. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, September 23rd. Chuck Parnow had his hands full swearing in 14 new members at his debut running the June Division meeting. Welcome aboard to Des Pegley, Tom Anderson, Ray Hollywood, Jack Joyce, Tim Coyne, Pete Dolan, Pete Kearney, Liam Mulcahy, Piersie Spillane, Mike Henry, Chris Alexander, Conor Fitzgerald, Ryan Sheehan and John Mavretish. Many thanks to all the members who travelled to the National Convention. It was very important for us to ensure that Rockland had all our delegates in attendance. Hopefully Brendan Moore can finally take a well-deserved break now. We are back to busy season. Read on to see all the upcoming events. Get your Pot O'Gold raffle now! Our newsletter will no longer be mailed out as hard copies. If you haven't done so already please send your email to praoh3@gmail.com asap so we can ensure you get your electronic version.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please say a prayer for repose for the souls of Brendan Malley and Jack Daly. With their passing, the foursome with Tom

O'Halloran and the Big Guy has reconvened at the celestial golf course. There shall be no guessing of which one will keep score. Please also pray for the repose of Paul Whalen's dad George, Dermot and Patrick Moore's mom Mary, Jim Gildea's mom Mary Ellen, Brian Moriarty's wife Theresa, Jim Doherty, Ray and Frank Gallagher's brother Patrick, Tom Hutchinson, John Timoney, and John McKiernan, neighbor and best friend of Frank Duffy. Please also say another prayer or two for the following: Frank Farrelly who is recovering from a bout with pancreatitis, Joe Moran who had a kidney removed, Donny Lyver who is on the long road to recovery after being involved in a very serious car accident, Tom Hyland who underwent a triple bypass and is up and around to his old self, Jim Walsh who was treated at Valley hospital for fluid in his lungs, and John Crilley who suffered an injury to his foot which will not heal.

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.*

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CALENDAR _____

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Sept. 17 | Triple Crown Party |
| Sept. 18 | All Ireland Final |
| Sept. 23 | Division meeting |
| Sept. 24 | Division Picnic |
| | Friendly Sons Golf |
| | Outing |
| Sept. 25 | Mary McDonagh |
| | Run/walk |
| Oct. 15 | Lourdes Kids Golf |
| | Outing |
| Oct. 21 | Dancing Like the Stars |



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LAOH

Five LAOH Division 3 members and I attended the National AOH/LAOH convention in July. It was very informative and enjoyable. On September 13th we reconvened after having July and August off from LAOH meetings. I was very pleased with the excellent turnout. We also welcomed 2 new members, Kathleen McCabe and Jillian Mulcahy. We are very busy working on our 4th annual Dancing Like the Stars fundraiser which will be held on October 21st at the Pearl River Elks Club. Tickets are \$25.00 each and are available for purchase. If interested in purchasing a ticket, visit the Muddy Brook or contact Joan Moore at 845 735 8793 or joan55mmoore@msn.com. Tickets will also be on sale at the Hibernian House. Dates will be posted there.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,
Terry McGeever, President LAOH Division 3*

POT O'GOLD RAFFLE

Once again our Annual Pot of Gold raffle has begun and we are seeking your support. Each year demand for these tickets increases and yet our space remains somewhat limited. It is for this reason that we ask, if you are considering attending our parties, please secure your tickets as soon as possible. This year we are once again keeping the cost for our tickets at 100.00. Not only will you be helping us to continue to support our numerous charitable endeavors, you and a guest will be entitled to attend both of our parties and also have an opportunity at winning numerous prizes. This year our 1st party (drawing #1) will be held on Sunday November 13th at the Hibernian House. The second party (drawing #2) will be held on Sunday December 18th also at the Hibernian House. Tickets can be secured by contacting Bill Lee at mr.williamplee@gmail.com or 845-558-4148 or Dermot Moore at praoh3@gmail.com or 845-735-8793. Tickets can also be obtained at the Hibernian House, please ask the bartender on duty for the tickets.

FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, September 24th at Anderson Field
Music by Roddy Harrington 2-6pm
Pre-sale: \$25 pp/\$40 family
At the gate: \$30 pp/\$50 family
Beer, wine, soft drinks, ribs, steak, sausage, clams, shrimp, games, and much more!!!
Money can be left at the pub. For more info contact Brian Booth at 845-304-4891

LOURDES KIDS GOLF OUTING

Saturday, Oct. 15
Registration & Lunch: 12:30 to 2pm, Shotgun start: 2pm, Buffet dinner to follow.
\$100 pp, \$50 for dinner only
Contact Quinton Van Wynen@914-391-3756, Denis Troy@845-538-4142, Sean Quinn@917-699-0894
Lkrc602@gmail.com

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Great summer, lots of good weather. Glad it is over, had a lot of trouble at the beach. Every time I sat by the water people would pour water on my back and try and roll me back in. You get tired of people yelling "thar she blows". With the election coming we are awaiting the arrival of the Captain from the Jersey shore. Time to put in the ear plugs. Pub has been done over, great job by Martin Moore and the Irish Michelangelo, Sean Collins. Went fishing from the Pub led by our Captain Doug Meeks. As usual he showed up with \$1000 worth of equipment and caught \$2.00 worth of fish. He did however hit some nice golf shots off the back of the boat. The Lourdes golf outing is October 15. If interested in playing or sponsoring a hole contact Ed Odea. We are hoping they stick Ed's head into the water. Hey you never know. Great surprise party for Chris Power. By the way you had a great time. Billy Ford broke 100 at golf and did the bear dance, it was worth the price of admission. The knock out pool is in full swing good luck to all.

Pete Dunne

MARY McDONAGH MEMORIAL RUN/WALK

Sunday, Sept. 25 8:30 am
Rockland Lake No. parking lot, Congers
Donation \$35 to benefit United Hospice of Rockland
To register: <https://reister.chronotrack.com/r/23156>
Or contact Kathy O'Brien @ 845-735-1902 or
kcob230@yahoo.com

TRIPLE CROWN COMPETITION PUB PARTY

Saturday, September 17 Noon to?
Upstairs HH hall. Downstairs pub will be closed
Who makes the best? 3pm-Bloody Mary's,
4pm-meatballs, 5pm-Chili.
Come out and vote for your favorite!
Cash bar. Limited # of entries. Contact Sean
Walsh@845-300-1718

ALL IRELAND GAA FINAL

Sunday, September 18th 10:30am
Upstairs HH hall
John Gannon will be there at 10am
to open the doors
The Division will serve Bangers, Eggs,
Irish Pudding etc.
Feel free to bring soda bread or whatever
dishes you feel like
Call Sean Murphy@914-419-8095

History

The Burning of the Ursuline Convent



On a sweltering July night in 1834 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cutter of Charlestown Massachusetts had just sat down to dinner when the family dog began barking incessantly at the front door. Mr. Cutter opened the door to find a young woman, Sr. Mary John (before her vows Elizabeth Harrison) of the neighboring Ursuline

Convent School on the front steps in her nightgown talking incoherently. At the nun's instance Cutter took her to the family of some of her former students who in turn notified the sisters at the convent.

The sisters notified Bishop Fenwick, informing him that Sr. Mary John had been suffering from exhaustion. The convent school was always understaffed as there had been a sad history of many of the nuns, specifically those recently arrived from rural Ireland, succumbing to tuberculosis which was prevalent in the growing city. Sr. Mary John had been teaching fourteen classes a day in addition to her religious duties as assistant to the Mother Superior. The Bishop tried unsuccessfully that night to see Sr. Mary John who refused to see him. Respecting her wishes, he returned the next day with her brother and the Mother Superior. Now much calmer, Sr. Mary John returned to the convent where she was nursed by her fellow nuns and visited by a doctor who diagnosed her as suffering from hysterics. Within a few days Sr. Mary John made a full recovery and was amazed and embarrassed when told stories of her behavior, apologizing profusely for the trouble she caused and stating that "(she) must have been out of my head".

There matters would have lain, if it were not the fact that Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1834 was a powder keg of suspicion and anti-Irish and Catholic bigotry with the Ursuline Convent School a frequent target. The Ursuline community had been founded by the Ryan sisters from County Tipperary who had made their vows together and were soon joined by another group of ecclesiastical siblings, the three O'Keefe sisters from Cork. All, as mentioned, would sadly succumb to early deaths in God's service due to disease. Ironically, the school catered to mostly Protestant students; in 1834 only six of the 47 students were Catholic. The school was popular with the recently affluent more liberal Unitarian members of the city's Protestant community who were eager for their daughters to acquire the "European style" education of music, arts and literature offered by the nuns. The nuns themselves saw their mission as presenting a positive picture of Catholicism, not for the purposes of conversion (which the rules of the Order discouraged and former students testified the nuns never engaged in), but in the hopes that as these educated young ladies took their place in some of the communities leading families they would spread tolerance having seen firsthand that Catholicism was no threat. As noble as these sentiments were, they did not factor in that the old conservative Puritans that dominated the working class of Charlestown and neighboring Boston would see the convent school as the union of two groups of people whom they despised. There had been numerous previous incidents of hate directed at the convent including the burning of a stable at the convent, the killing of the nuns pet dog and the savage beating of their Irish born groundskeeper.

For two weeks after the return of Sr. Mary Joseph rumor fermented suspicion in the city. An irresponsible press more intent on selling papers than reporting act, began reporting stories of a "mysterious lady" who "they believed" had been abducted and was being held against her will (and perhaps even murdered) at the convent and called for a full scale investigation. The papers freely embellished their stories with unsubstantiated allegations from earlier discredited anti-Catholic literature. Further fuel was added to the fire by the incendiary anti-Catholic/anti-Irish speeches being simultaneously given in Boston by the Rev. Lyman Beecher (the father of Harriet Beecher Stowe who would write "Uncle Tom's Cabin"). On Saturday evening, August 9th, a group of town officials made a visit to the nunnery and left fully satisfied that the reports of women being held against their will were baseless. However rumor and intolerance were not to be easily defeated by fact.

On Monday night August 11th, an angry mob of fifty to sixty men assembled at the convent and set fire to tar barrels on the convent grounds. Several fire companies were called to the scene, but declined to intervene, some members actually joining the rioters. The disturbance drew a large number of spectators swelling the crowd to over 2,000. The crowd broke down doors and windows to enter the convent, and began to ransack the buildings. The nuns gathered their pupils and escaped from the back of the building to hide in the garden. At about midnight, the rioters set fire to the buildings, which burned to the ground, entering the crypt where they Ryan and O'Keefe sisters were buried they desecrated the tombs, smashing skulls and taking the teeth as souvenirs.

Several men were charged with arson and burglary, but all save one were acquitted (and he was eventually pardoned) by sympathetic juries sharing the prejudices of the rioters. The self-professed ring-leader of the riot later boasted "The testimony against me was point blank and sufficient to have convicted twenty men". This miscarriage of justice was followed by equally insincere expressions of sorrow by the Massachusetts legislature which though they passed a resolution condemning the actions of the rioters defeated multiple bills to compensate the Ursulines for their failure to protect them.

Sadly, the use of ignorance and rumor to attack the Irish and Catholics is not just a 19th century phenomena. In the summer of 2015, five Irish students visiting the U.S. on the J-1 Visa program and one Irish American were killed when the balcony of the apartment they were renting collapsed in Berkeley California. Like the Boston papers of 1834, American papers, specifically the NY Times, were quick to publish speculative stories fueled by negative Irish stereotypes and mixing in details from an incident involving other J-1 students several years prior to outrageously imply that the students were engaging in behavior that contributed to their own deaths. Like the Charlestown officials who visited the Ursuline convent and found the hateful rumors unfounded, investigators in Berkeley found that the apartments that the students were renting had a long series of safety violations and the balcony in particular was improperly constructed and its supports rotted; the students were blameless victims. Yet, to this day the original inaccurate story persists on the Times web site and is the first result returned by a Google search for this tragic incident, the Times never updating the story and an inadequate apology buried on an obscure Times blog page.

Both stories illustrate the hateful persistent power of bigotry, stereotype and myth and why when we encounter them we should not be waved off with admonitions to "let it go" or "its only a joke" when our faith and heritage are attacked or defamed.

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