



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

April, 2012



Brother Hibernians, _____



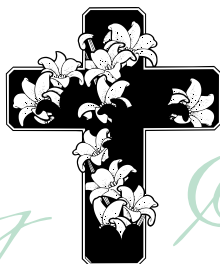
Our next meeting will be held on Friday, April 25 at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Vic Alfieri, Denis Casey, and Bill McAuliffe. Many thanks to all who marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parades. Congratulations to our 2012 Scholarship winners and many thanks to the scholarship committee who had a really tough time this year with so many qualified applicants.

A couple of Good and Welfare status updates are in order. The good news is that Billy Kenney has received an all clear from his doctors and Ray Gallagher's daughter is out of the ICU at Sloan-Kettering. The bad news is that Christine's doctors are still experimenting with chemo formulas which take time for her to adapt to. A couple of guys have paid visits to Larry McKeever up at Summit Park in Pomona and report that he seems to be doing better but still faces a long road ahead. He's looking forward to moving back home so he can see the grandkids on a regular basis which will require significant modifications to his homestead. Many thanks to Denis Troy

and John Murphy for all their help in this regard. Bob Tegeler suffered a heart attack in Vero Beach and underwent a triple bypass. He's awaiting permission to travel back to Rockland for rehab. Steve Bello is recovering well in Blauvelt after his heart attack. Warren Hennessey's bride Mary is undergoing further treatments for her illness. Brendan Malley is doing well enough with his recovery and we expect him back in Pearl River by the end of the month. Phil Donaghy had a few stents put in after experiencing heart problems. Jimmy Doyle has fully recovered with his new liver and is back to his fighting weight and all his good humor. In a completely unrelated matter, be it known that our dozen touring golf members returned safely from their excursion to the Sunshine State.

Happy Easter to you and your families and, as always, please keep our troops in your prayers.

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



Happy Easter

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CALENDAR _____

**April 15 Communion
Breakfast**

**April 21 Brendan Moore
Fund Raiser**

May 17 Golf Outing

July 9-13 National Convention

**July 15 Rockland County
Feis**

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Ancient Order of Hibernians



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COMMUNION BREAKFAST

AOH Communion Breakfast

Sunday April 15th, 2012

Immediately following the 9:00 Mass at St. Margaret's

Guest Speaker:

Patrick Moroney

Rockland County Legislator

Presentation of 2012 Scholarships

Location: Hibernian House

Cost: Adults \$20

Children under 12 - \$5

Please contact Kevin McNulty @ kmcnulty@shp.org
for reservations.

2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Thomas McNulty, Shannon Glynn,

Connor Madigan, Joseph Moran,

Brendan O'Dea, James Huber,

Mark O'Brien, Julianne Rogers

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Back by popular demand there are plans to start the Tuesday night "Golf Dinners" again. Anyone interested in playing or just coming to dinner please let somebody on the board know. These were good times and helped the Pub out. Also anyone who might have time to prepare or help to do the food please let Phil Sheridan know.

Thank God the shamrock was finally hit. The bus from Gate of Heaven Cemetery was making it's scheduled stop at 2.30 every afternoon as the walkers and wheelchairs shuffled in and out. Make sure your dues are paid!!

Good news to report, the NY State Grant for the handicapped access improvements, (*chair lift, stairs etc.*) has been received. Thanks to all for helping with this project. Special thanks to Tom Diviny for filling the reams of forms needed to satisfy State requirements.

If anyone has some time and could do some small repairs around the House it will be greatly appreciated.

The Hibernian House Board

PHILIP J. MURPHY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

The 2012 Philip J. Murphy Golf Outing will be held on Thursday May 17, 2012 at Blue Hill. 12 noon shotgun start with a 3 hour reception to follow at Emmett's Castle - includes bottled beer, premium drafts, well drinks, wine & soda, and hot buffet dinner. Cost is \$125 per player, \$50 for reception only. Million Dollar Shot, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Closest to the Line, Beat the Pro, and much, much more... Please contact Sean Walsh at 845-201-8384 or email div3golfouting@optimum.net. Friend us on Facebook at PhilipMurphy GolfOuting.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Division 3 member Brendan Moore is running for AOH National President. Monmouth Division 2 is hosting a fundraiser to help off-set the huge cost of hosting a hospitality suite at the National Convention. All the monies raised will be spent on food, beverages, entertainment, mailings, etc. for Brendan's campaign and suite expenses. They are asking all divisions in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to come out and support our next National President. The night includes food, drinks, and friends not to mention music performances by the famous Bogside Rougues and Amadaun. Cost \$20 and includes food and entertainment with a cash bar. Date/Time: Saturday, April 21, 2012 - 7PM -11PM. Place: The Bayshore Catholic Center, 12 Hwy. 36, Middletown, NJ 07748. More info: 732-241-2828 or email fenian1881@aol.com

LAOH

Welcome to spring!! I would like to congratulate Mary O'Sullivan, Bill Lee and the entire parade committee on running such a successful St. Patrick's Day Parade. A great Day was had by all and the visit from Cardinal Dolan made it more special. Sorry so many of you missed out marching in such a special parade. I was disappointed on the number of marchers we had from all the divisions. We take an oath to promote all things Irish with volunteering as one of the important roles of this organization and without participating we run the risk of not fulfilling our oath. A discussion will be had at the next meeting and your input will be important. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 10th at 7:30 PM. On the Agenda: Update on Scholarships, Thursday's at St. Zita's, (May 17th) Ascension Thursday Dinner, (June 10th) Scholarship Communion Breakfast, (July 9-12th) National Convention, Rockland County Feis (July 15th). Happy Easter to all!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Joan Moore, *President*

845-735-8793 (h) • 845-536-2742 (Cell)
or email: joan55mmoore@msn.com



Fighting Father Joe



Chaplain Joseph O'Callahan ministers to an injured man aboard USS Franklin - 1945.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor bestowed by the United States. It is awarded for *"conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States."* To achieve this honor in battle is exceptional enough, to earn this award when armed only with one's courage and faith is extraordinary. One such exceptional man was Fr. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J.

Joseph Timothy O'Callahan was born on May 14, 1905 in Roxbury, Mass. In 1922, young Joseph heard God's call and joined the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, as a novitiate to begin thirteen years of study prior to ordination. O'Callahan earned degrees in mathematics and physics in addition to religious philosophy and was ordained in 1934. He became a Professor of Mathematics, Philosophy, and Physics at Boston College and quickly rose to the position of the Director of the Mathematics Department at the College of the Holy Cross.

In August 1940, as it became clear that America was drifting towards war, Fr. O'Callahan heard a second call to service and joined the Naval Reserve Chaplain Corps. Already well past the standard service age, scholarly Fr. O'Callahan's decision to put his promising academic career on hold to join the Navy shocked his colleagues. Quipped one *"Let someone younger help those boys. You can't even open your umbrella."*

Fr. O'Callahan severed in several assignments before reporting for duty on the carrier U.S.S. Franklin as chaplain to its compliment of 3,200 men. The Franklin was part of Task Force 58 whose mission was to seek out and destroy what remained of the Japanese fleet as they approached Japan. On the morning of March 19, 1945 the Franklin was positioned fifty miles off the coast of Kobe, Japan and

had already launch one wave of aircraft and was preparing to launch a second when a lone Japanese bomber on a suicide mission was able to penetrate the fleet's defenses. The bomber was able to drop two bombs on the Franklin whose flight deck was covered with fully fueled aircraft and munitions. Within seconds the ship was transformed into an inferno.

Armed only with his helmet that bore a white cross and holy oil, Fr. O'Callahan went forward to take on man's greatest enemy; fear. He came to a ladder leading to the flight deck to find it mobbed by frightened young men struggling to escape. In a calm voice he called *"Here boys, single file."* Finally emerging himself on the flight deck he was confronted with a scene beyond man's worse imaginings of hell: blazing aviation fuel and choking smoke everywhere, the air filled with the cries of the wounded and the dying and the ship rocked by continuous explosions from bombs and rockets that were on deck to load on the Franklin's aircraft. Fr. O'Callahan immediately noticed that flames were surrounding a gun turret filled with ammunition, the heat of the fires threatening to detonate the ammunition at any time. He quickly organized a party of men into a line as he himself entered the scorching turret. Calmly, Fr. O'Callahan handed the shells out where they were passed down the line and over the side.

Fr. O'Callahan seemed to be everywhere at once, organizing fire crews to save the ship while still ministering in his priestly duties to the wounded and dying. The Franklin's Captain Les Gehres, himself fighting to save his ship which was now listing badly, watched in helpless horror from the bridge as he saw a 500 lb. bomb break loose on the deck and begin to roll toward an open hold filled with ammunition. A group of sailors instinctively stopped the bombs' roll, but then froze at the prospect of now having to defuse the live bomb. Captain Gehres then saw Fr. O'Callahan appear out of nowhere and calmly stand over the bomb, inspiring and encouraging the men by his coolness as they successfully defused the bomb. Captain Gehres later described O'Callahan as *"the bravest man I have ever seen."*

Fr. O'Callahan was not the only hero of that day, but his unflappable demeanor was an inspiration and an example to all who saw him. The crew of the Franklin refused to give up on her. The Franklin well earned the title that a movie based on the events of that day would bestow upon her: ***The Ship that Wouldn't Die.*** Despite 724 men killed

Did You Know That...

- Irish American Members of the Catholic Clergy have a long and distinguished record of service in defense of their country:
- Fr. Francis Duffy holds the distinction of being the most decorated cleric in the history of the U.S. Army. The soldiers of his regiment, the NY 69th, who had witnessed his courage first hand wanted to recommend Duffy for the Medal of Honor, but in humility Duffy declined.
- One of the first Catholic Chaplains in the U.S. Army and also a Chaplain of the 69th, Fr. William Corby was similarly recommended for the Medal of Honor for tending to the dead and wounded under fire heedless of his own safety during the Civil War.
- During the American Civil War, hundreds of Catholic Nuns, many Irish American, served as nurses to the wounded irrespective of their allegiance or nationality. Their service is commemorated at The Civil War Nurses Monument in Washington, DC. The inscription reads *"They comforted the dying, nursed the wounded, carried hope to the imprisoned, gave in His name a drink of water to the thirsty."*
- Fr. Aloysius P. McGonigal, an Army Chaplain, hearing that there was no Chaplain with the 1st Battalion of the 5th Marines who were assaulting the city of Hue during the Vietnam Tet offensive, crossed a river surrounding the city to be there for the men. He was killed while performing the last rites for a fallen Marine. He was awarded the Silver Star.

and 265 injured and listing 13 degrees, the Franklin made it back to Pearl Harbor and eventually home to the United States.

Fr. O'Callahan became the first Navy Chaplain to be awarded the Medal of Honor. His was not the fierce courage of the warrior, but the stoic, confident courage born of faith in a greater and selfless purpose. At a time when our faith is increasingly under attack by a secular, self-centered culture, may Fr. O'Callahan's selfless example inspire us as much as he did the men of the Franklin.

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