

Ancient Onder of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2013



Brother Hibernians, _____



I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 25 at 8pm.

Welcome aboard to new members Bill Horan, Matt Miller, and Kieran Murphy. Thanks to all our volunteers for making our Christmas parties so special and to Bill & Trish Lee as well as all the volunteers who made our Pot O'Gold final drawing such a success. Don't forget your tickets for John McElligott's Valentine's/Mid Winter Dance on January 26 and the Emerald Ball on February 23rd.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Congratulations to Ray Gallagher whose son Chris and his bride Maureen recently presented him with grandson Patrick William. Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Frank Rowley's dad James, Charlie Cremeans' brother-in-law Reverend Daniel Ryan, and George Jones' brother Bill. Quentin Van Wynen's bride Liz is recovering well after

foot surgery. Sean Devery is recovering at home in Suffern and would appreciate visitors, please call 845-368-4665. Ray Gallagher did another fabulous job depicting St. Nick at both of our Christmas parties and then, at the behest of Peggy Roche, did it again in a real show of ecumenism for the kids at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All of you should take a bow for your generosity to the annual USMC Toys for Tots program and Mike Lynch, in particular, from his CHQ headquarters at Toys R Us, our annual Families in Need Christmas fund raiser, and for the very gracious generosity to the Larry McKeever fundraiser. Please keep up the donations as they are needed and greatly appreciated.

Please remember in your prayers the innocents of Newton, Ct. as well as the firefighters ambushed in upstate New York and, as always, our wounded warriors.

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

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CALENDAR _____

Jan. 15 County Meeting

Jan. 25 Divison Meeting

Jan. 26 Valentine's Mid-Winter Dance

Feb. 23 Emerald Ball

28 Railroad Avenue Pearl River, N.Y. 10965

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

And so another year has come and gone. 2012 was a year like so many others but so many things to remember.

We have seen the last of somethings, such as:

The last Emerald Ball at the Sheraton Cross Roads in Mahwah, NJ and the last Fies at Bear Mountain's Anthony Wayne Park. These are things that may be better or worse but can be changed if they are not successful.

Now we must remember some of our dear friends who are not with us anymore. Many we know from Hibernian House, close friends or acquaintances. They are all missed greatly.

It may be a good time of year as we start anew to reflect on old friends and form new acquaintances. The Pub is a great meeting place; new members are joining every month. Come in and greet new people, talk to them, invite them to get involved in activities of the Organization.

"Strangers are friends you haven't met yet." Everyone will benefit, old member and new, and the organization. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, including bringing your own ideas for something you think may be beneficial to all.

Let's have a great year.

Hibernian House Board

LAOH ____

Hoping the Holiday season was filled with love and happiness and that the Good Lord looks over all of you in this New Year.

The New Year has come galloping in and our first Division 3 meeting will be this Tuesday, January 8 at the Hibernian House at 7:30 PM.

As this new year starts lets take a moment to reflect on all the good we have done over the past year and remember those we have lost and those who've suffered a loss from Hurricane Sandy. The Hibernian Charity is still taking donations to assist those in need and as I hear of more opportunities to help, I will pass them on to all of you.

Reminder that all 'End of Year' reports are due to the County by January 31st.

Our next County Meeting will be on January 22 at 8pm at the Hibernian House.

Thank you to Mary O'Sullivan and her faithful crew for putting on a great Christmas Party at O'Malley's. A good time was had by all.

The Emerald Ball is fast approaching so be sure to mark your calendars for February 23, 2013 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza in Suffern.

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

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



VALENTINE'S DANCE

Early Valentine's Day/ Mid-Winter Dance Saturday, January 26th from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am

Music by Better Days

Sing-along sheets, sandwiches, open bar \$30 per person

Contact John McElligott at 845-638-9374



2013 EMERALD BALL



Crowne Plaza in Suffern February 23, 2013 7 pm

Honorees:

Teresa Morris *Hibernian of the Year*

Emmett WoodsBusinessman of the Year

Msgr. Edward Weber
Grand Marshal

Chris Cawley
Aide to Grand Marshal NYC

Sgt. Kieran Murphy,69th Regiment
Parade Commander

t araae Commanae.

Tickets-\$100

Call Pat or Dan Barry at 845-627-5720

Historian - Neil Cosgrove

Fr. Francis P. Duffy, "a very Irish, very Catholic, very American person"



Recently, over a million spectators converged on Times Square to watch the annual ball drop bringing in the new year. As the large milling crowds were looking up, one wonders how many of them noticed a statue of a man wearing the uniform of an American soldier of a century ago, a Celtic cross at his back, watching over them. Yet the man depicted is not armed with a rifle, but with a bible. One wonders if the countless tourists even paused to look at the inscription and the tribute to an incredible man who holds the distinction of being the most decorated Chaplin in the history of the United States: Fr. Francis P. Duffy.

Fr. Duffy was an immigrant to America, not from Ireland, but from Canada where he was born in Cobourg, Ontario. He was the grandson of Irish grandparents who had fled to the New World to escape the horrors of the Great Hunger in Ireland, his father's family coming from Carrickmacross in County Cavan, his mother's family from Roscommon. He was the third of eleven children, and in what would turn out to be an irony of his later reputation for seemingly limitless energy, was described as "frail and not of robust health". Yet, he possessed a quick mind, a family friend describing how as a small child he often "startled his mother" with his precociousness.

The young Francis excelled at his studies, becoming an instructor at St. Francis Xavier College in Manhattan before heeding the call to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1896, and said one of his first masses here in Rockland County at St. Peter's in Haverstraw where he was assisted by a young altar boy, Michael A. Donaldson. Duffy went on to attend Catholic University where he would eventually earn his Doctorate. In 1898, he volunteered as a Chaplin to minister to soldiers returning from the Spanish American War, many of whom had contracted malaria and yellow fever. After a month of tirelessly administering to these soldiers it was not long before Duffy himself contracted typhoid and was taken back to Dunwoodie in Yonkers, NY to recuperate.

After recovering, Fr. Duffy spent the next decade as a popular and influential instructor at Dunwoodie, until his more modern and independent views ran afoul of some in the Church Hierarchy. He was transferred to Our Savior Church in the Bronx. Little more than a storefront next to a vacant lot with few parishioners when he arrived, Duffy singlehandedly built it into a thriving parish with a new Church and school. Still showing his progressive streak, Duffy even originated the idea of establishing a day care center in the parish so that mothers could attend mass.

Yet the quiet life of a parish priest was too calm for the energetic Duffy and in addition to his pastoral duties he also served as the Chaplin of the predominantly Irish American 69th Regiment of the NY National Guard, "The Fighting 69th". When World War I broke out, Duffy was quick to join his boys when they were among the first units to be mobilized for France. Duffy's sincere concern for the men of the 69th, his boundless good will and energy in ministering to their needs, and his zeal for guarding the unit's Irish traditions soon made him a favorite among the men and officers. It was often reported that the line for Fr. Duffy's confessions often exceeded the chow line. Duffy was not a passive witness to war, he invariably accompanied stretcher parties under fire into "No Man's Land" to bring comfort to the wounded and dying. Though known for his calmness and resolution under fire, even Duffy could not escape the horrors of the Western Front unscathed: witnesses recall that in turning over one young soldier to give the last rites, Duffy broke down into tears; he remembered baptizing him as a baby.

Recognized as a natural leader and the heart and soul of perhaps the hardest fighting regiment of WWI, Duffy was briefly considered to be appointed its commanding officer, which would have been unprecedented as a Chaplain. Fr.

Duffy though had other plans. He saw in the heavily Irish Catholic 69th a living example of Irish Catholic patriotism, patriotism which was still far too often questioned back home by the forces of ignorance and prejudice. Duffy used his influence to see that the 69th finished the war and marched back to New York under another shining example of Irish American Patriotism in action: Colonel "Wild Bill Donovan".

Duffy returned to New York the most decorated Chaplain in the history of the United States. Duffy was appointed pastor of Holy Cross Church in Hell's Kitchen, a block from Times Square where he quickly became a great favorite of the neighborhood and the theater community alike. Fr. Duffy was not through fighting however. In 1927 Al Smith was the first Catholic to run for the office of President of the United States. Despite the tremendous sacrifices that Catholics had made in defense of their country, their patriotism was still called into question. In response to an article published in Atlantic Monthly questioning whether a Catholic could serve as a loyal president, Duffy as a "ghost writer" for Smith, made a classic statement on Catholic patriotism. The ideas put forth by Fr. Duffy on religious freedom and freedom of conscience would influence the the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom some thirty years later. Duffy also fulfilled a vow he had made to finish a book that had been started by one of his companions in the 69th, the famous poet Joyce Kilmer, who had not survived the war, as a permanent testament to him and all the brave men of the 69th. The book was later titled "Fr. Duffy's Story." In its preface Duffy summed up his character perfectly, "I am a very Irish, very Catholic, very American person, if anybody challenges my convictions. But normally, and let alone, I am just plain human."

Fr. Francis P. Duffy died on June 27, 1932. An estimated 25,000 people of all walks of life attended Fr. Duffy's funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Trying to squeeze her way past a barricade for a better view, a woman was stopped by a police officer. She protested, claiming to be "a friend of the deceased." The officer replied "That is true Ma'am of everyone here today." What an epitaph to a great man. Let us, this New Year, resolve never to forget Fr. Duffy or the countless Irish Americans like him.

Note: The young Haverstraw altar boy who served at one of Fr. Duffy's first masses at St. Peter's would serve with him again, but as a fellow soldier in the 69th in France. Michael Aloysius Donaldson would be awarded the Medal of Honor for making six trips under fire into "No Man's Land" to carry out wounded comrads.

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