



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2014



Brother Hibernians, _____



Merry Christmas and a very happy and blessed New Year to you and your families. Welcome aboard to new members Tim Gavan and Sean Joyce. Congratulations to our own Vince Tyer on his well deserved election as Grand Marshal of the 2015 Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade and many thanks go out all our members for the outstanding presence at the meeting. At tremendous job was done once again at our Senior Citizens' Luncheon. Thanks to chairmen Jack O'Connor and Larry DeGennaro as well as cooks Dan Callanan and Larry Connell and all the numerous volunteers and musicians. You are too numerous to mention but you all should all be proud of living up to ideals of our motto. Our Christmas parties are on December 14th. The party for children with special needs is from 10 am to noon and our family party starts at 1pm. We need volunteers before during and after so please let Frank McDonagh know if you can help out. December 21st is the final drawing for our Pot O'Gold raffle so don't miss out on a chance to win 10 grand for Christmas, get your ticket now. Please support the Adopt a Family Fund Christmas Drive at the pub to make a Merry Christmas a reality for several local needy families. Stop by the pub now and drop off whatever

donation you can in the envelopes provided. It's amazing how good it will make you feel!

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news... Please continue your prayers for the recovery of Mary McDonagh, John Kennedy, Sean King, Mike Smith, Bobby Farrelly, and Terry Greenan. You can also add to your list John Taylor who has a problem similar to COPD. Many thanks go out to all the members who volunteered at our annual Seniors' luncheon and to the high schoolers who earned their community service stripes. Special thanks go out to "Pots and Pans" man Jack Cunningham and "Master Slicer" Larry Connell. Vince Tyer stopped by the pub with his brother Todd on their way to scout out Yankee Stadium to put some hex in preparation for next year's run for the pennant against some team from Boston. Congrats to Kevin Bourke on his retirement from chasing parking scofflaws in bucolic Pearl River which was a serious letdown after chasing fires with the NYFD.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer for our wounded warriors and their families.

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

Pot of Gold!
See Inside



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JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

Dec. 14 Christmas Parties

Dec. 19 Division Meeting

Dec. 21 Final Raffle Drawing

Jan. 1 Fat-Off Weigh In

Pearl River, N.Y. 10965
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Ancient Order of Hibernians



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas to one and all. It's that time of the year again, to think about presents for family and friends. Here are a few suggestions for some of our members. For Warren Hennessy some batteries for the remote in the club so can actually change channels. For JG a vacation that includes Sundays - "Dunne does not really care" - yes he does. For Water Company, Al better glasses so he can read the Shamrock board to see how much is in it. For Bill Gaynor and the rest of us, a case of laryngitis. For the Mook and Donnie, a wining team. For Bob Scully, a good package from work. For Big Chris, part ownership in Budweiser. For all the rest of us, a healthy and happy New Year.

January 1st is fat off time. It is the second 10th Anniversary of the fat off. The idiot who runs it missed a year, he's probably missed a lot more than that. Come down and weigh in, lose some lbs. it is for two good causes, one of which is your health.

Last but not least, we wish John Leddy best of luck on his tour of the good old USA after he retires in January, nobody deserves it more than him. A little foot note on the tour, we had to buy Billy Ford a big teddy bear to keep him company while John is gone. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Pete Dunne



**Now is the time to reserve
the hall for your Communion
and Graduation parties for
next May or June.**

**Call (845) 731-9697
to reserve your date.**

LAOH

Several of the ladies of LAOH Div.3 recently attended the Birth Right of Rockland 40th Anniversary Gala! It was a wonderful afternoon and we were very pleased to help celebrate 40 years of great work by Birth Right! We also had the great honor of meeting Cardinal Timothy Dolan!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Katie Anne Basler
President, LAOH Div.3



POT OF GOLD

Congratulations to all of the winners from our first drawing in November. They are all still eligible to win in our final drawing. There are still a few tickets available so, if you haven't done so already, please get your ticket now. Not only will you be helping us to support our numerous charitable endeavors, you and a guest will be entitled to attend the party on December 21st at which will award an additional \$12,000.00 including our grand prize of \$10,000.00.

Tickets can be secured by contacting Bill Lee at mr.williamlee@gmail.com or by calling 845-558-4148. Tickets can also be obtained at the Hibernian House or contact Dermot Moore at 845-735-8793 or praoh3@gmail.com.

History

Yes, Virginia (O'Hanlon) There is a Santa Claus



In a troubled world, thank God for the gift of hope called the Christmas season. For all of us, it is a time where we can take an opportunity to at least momentarily free ourselves of the chains of what seems the depressing realities of the world and once again engage in the saintly innocents of children where eyes are opened to the magic of the universe and all things are possible. Perhaps the greatest testament of that faith was prompted by the innocent question of an 8 year old Irish American Virginia O'Hanlon.

Virginia O'Hanlon was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side in 1889. Her Grandfather had been a founding member of the 63rd Volunteer Regiment of Meagher's Irish Brigade and had his bravery had been mentioned in dispatches. Her father, Dr. Phillip O'Hanlon, was a New York City Coroner and had been credited though his forensic work of providing the critical evidence that led to the identification and conviction in a prominent murder case. An intelligent and inquisitive child, Virginia later recalled that whenever there was a question of fact in the family, her father would always turn to the NY Sun Newspaper as the final arbiter; saying "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

At the age of 8, young Virginia was apparently teased by some boorish bullies about her belief in Santa Claus. Following

her families tradition, she put the question in the form of a letter to the NY Sun. The letter and response by the editor Francis P. Church has become an icon of journalism and a classic affirmation of the Christmas spirit.

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

The story does not end there. Virginia received a Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in 1910, a Master's degree in education from Columbia University in 1912, and a doctorate from Fordham University in 1935; a considerable achievements at any time, but particularly impressive during an age when higher education was not as accessible for women. She became the principal in a New York City public school serving children with special needs where she served until her retirement as a respected and beloved educator in 1959. In interviews she would always credit her remarkable life of service to living up to the ideals of Santa Claus expressed Francis P. Church's response to her letter when she was 8 years old.

The story of "Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus" and Virginia O'Hanlon is a challenge to us all. Let us not deprive our children of the magic of Christmas and the lesson of Santa Claus, a man who gives of his gifts and talents without asking anything in return, for a sterile, bland politically correct "Happy Holidays" that stands for nothing, affirms nothing and does not challenge us to aspire to be more than we are. Anyone who does not believe in Santa has but to come to Hibernian House and see the money appear without explanation nor credit in the "Family in Need Jar", or toys for needy children show up out of nowhere in the "Toys for Tot" box or the elves who work the Senior Citizen Luncheon or the Special Needs Christmas party.

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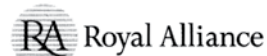
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