



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2015



Brother Hibernians, _____



I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, December 18th. Welcome aboard to new members Pete Blickley, Brian Kirrane, Brendan McLaughlin, and John Kennedy, Jr.

Congratulations to all the Division officers who were re-elected and welcome aboard to our new Vice President, Chuck Parnow. I have been blessed for many years to work with our outgoing VP, Vince Tyer, and will miss him sitting next to me. I pray that I can continue to avail myself of his wise counsel and many, many thanks are due to him as well as congratulations and best wishes on his recent election as Rockland County Legislator. Congratulations are also due to the following on their recently bestowed Rockland County Parade honors: Tom Lynch as Battalion Commander, Ed O'Dea as Aide to Grand Marshal, Neil Cosgrove as Hibernian of the Year, and Kevin Donohue as Aide to Grand Marshal in the NYC Parade. Well deserved! Many thanks go out to Jack O'Connor, Larry DeGenarro, and Dan Callanan for running a very successful Senior Citizen Luncheon as well as to the numerous volunteers who helped out.

Despite desperate attempts to stop them, members of the Affiliated Organizations unanimously nominated and elected the officers of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee on November 30th. Hopefully the Board of Directors will now work with our representatives to ensure our NYC parade remains the greatest and most dignified parade in the world. Many thanks to all of you who supported

the Concerned Members of the Affiliated Organizations that struggled so hard to keep democracy in the parade and especially to my committee co-members from Rockland County, Neil Cosgrove and Jim Russell.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Big Jim Morrison, John Keahon's mom Rita, John Crilley's brother Neil. A few good wishes are in order for Bob Howe whose hip problems were diagnosed as due to arthritis and bursitis, Mark Donnelly who had a couple of minor strokes, is under medication and his niece is lending a hand, Jim Doherty will be undergoing dialysis three times a week for the foreseeable future, the same is true for Mike Smith. Your prayers and good wishes worked well for Danny O'Keefe whose most recent tests showed he is cancer free. Denis Troy is making great progress recovering from his injuries.

Congratulations are in order for John Callanan whose son Daniel came first in the under 11 boys Irish Step Dancing, Merrick Rhodes' daughter Ciara who came second in the under 17 girls and Mike Hieb's daughter Erin who came fourteenth in the under 11 girls in the Mid Atlantic Oireachtas competition in Philadelphia and are all off to the world competition. Well done and best wishes as they head off for World Championships in Glasgow.

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.*

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE

Vice President
CHARLES PARNOW

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MARTIN DAVIN

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NEIL COSGROVE

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Sentinel
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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

President
FRANK McDONAGH

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

Dec. 13 Christmas parties

Dec. 18 Division Meeting

Dec. 20 Final POG
Drawing Party

Feb. 6 Ski Trip

Pearl River, N.Y. 10965
28 Railroad Avenue

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LAOH

The Ladies of Division 3 hope you are all enjoying the Christmas Season! We have a lot to look forward in the coming weeks as we celebrate our Division Christmas Party at Emmet's Castle on the 8th and are busy planning a festive Christmas Party to bring joy to the ladies of Saint Zita's Home later in this season! We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Katie Anne Basler
President, LAOH Div.3

CHRISTMAS FUND

Please support the Adopt a Family Fund Christmas Drive and make a Merry Christmas a reality for several local needy families. Stop by the pub now and drop off your donation addressed to the attention of Pete Dunne or John Gannon. It's amazing how good it will make you feel.

POT O'GOLD RAFFLE

If you haven't gotten your ticket yet, please do so. 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. Congrats to all the winners at our 1st drawing party who are all still eligible for the final drawing on Sunday December 20th also at the Hibernian House. Ten grand cash is a nice Christmas present so don't miss out. 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.



HIBERNIAN HOUSE

The Freeze your Arse golf tourney was big hit. Danny O'Grief almost fell into the lake but was saved by Gannon. He owes him money. Thanks to Joe Wrafter for all his help. It's almost Christmas, time for some present suggestions: Belfast Richie a translator, John Gannon two Sundays a month, Bob Scully a white scarf that stays stretched out even when he stops at a light, Dennis Toal (aka CC) a years subscription to CNN, Dennis Troy a helmet, Don and Mookie a winning team, John Crilly eight days a week, PD111 a brain, Bill Ford a John Leddy Teddy Bear for when John goes on vacation, George Page a week locked up with Kevin Guy, and to all the members at the Pub a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. Remember it's Merry Christmas not Happy holidays, Ho Ho Ho, be careful where you say that!

Pete Dunne



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our Christmas parties will be held on Sunday, December 13. The party for children with special needs goes from 10 am till noon and the family party goes from 1 pm to 3 pm. We need volunteers before, during, and after.

SKI TRIP

Chuck Parnow and Dan Peterson hope to once again coordinate a ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on Saturday, February 6. Last year's trip was a blast and included bus trip with refreshments, lunch, and discounted rentals. Please let Chuck know if you are interested at Charles.Parnow@towerswatson.com so he can get an idea of numbers.

Joseph Plunkett

“more courage in his little finger than all the other leaders combined”



On April 24, 1916 amidst the chaos of the newly seized Dublin General Post Office (GPO), a fifteen year old Roddy Connolly, acting as an aide to his father James Connolly, noticed a peculiar site. He saw men putting down a mattress in front of the stamps counter and a man in a resplendent uniform complete with saber then lying upon it while everyone else was dashing about him. Rather contemptuously he asked his father who this man was who was lying down during a revolution? James Connolly responded to him sharply *“That’s Joe Plunkett, and he has more courage in his little finger than all the other leaders combined”*.

Joseph Mary Plunkett was born on the 21st of November 1887 at 26 Upper Fitzwilliam Street in one of Dublin’s most affluent neighborhoods. He was the son of an old family where both parents themselves came from wealthy backgrounds. Joseph’s father had been made a Papal Count for endowing the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, a nursing order, with money and property. The family was directly related to the martyred St. Oliver Plunkett.

Sadly, in proof of the old adage the Plunkett’s money could not buy health for their son. Joseph contracted tuberculosis at a young age and would be burdened with the disease his entire life. As a child he was frequently

bedridden where he became a voracious reader; developing a wide ranging intellect from poetry to the latest technologies of the day such as radio. Plunkett attended Catholic University School, Belvedere College in Dublin and later Stonyhurst College, Lancashire, where he acquired some military knowledge from participation in the Officers’ Training Corps. He was an ardent student of language and was soon swept up in the Gaelic revival. He became a member of the Gaelic League and formed a lifelong friendship with another future signer of the 1916 Proclamation Thomas MacDonagh with whom he shared a love of poetry. Plunkett helped found an Irish National Theater, was the editor of the *Irish Review* and a selection of his poems were published under the title *“The Circle and the Sword”*

As with many of his generation, Plunkett’s appreciation of his nation’s history and culture led naturally to a desire to see it free and independent. Originally an advocate for constitutional Home Rule, he became disillusioned by Britain’s cynical failure to enact the Third Home Rule Bill. It became clear that England would never grant Ireland her independence by constitutional means; if Ireland was to become a free nation a rising of her people would be necessary. Plunkett joined the Irish Volunteers and was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB).

Despite continuing ill health, Plunkett dedicated all his energies to the rising. The Larkfield estate which had been inherited by Plunkett’s mother in the suburbs of Dublin quickly became a training ground and barracks for recruits to the Irish volunteers. It was here that Plunkett met a young Michael Collins. An unlikely pair, the burly and robust Collins and the frail, sickly Plunkett formed a deep friendship and Collins was made Plunkett’s Aide de Camp. It was Plunkett who gave Collins the book *“The Man Who Was Thursday”* in which the main character observed *“if you didn’t seem to be hiding nobody hunted you out”* that would inspire Collins future career and Plunkett in turn would come to lean on Collins, both literally and figuratively, throughout the rising.

Because of his military knowledge, Plunkett was appointed Director of Military Operations for the Rising. Using his all too real illness as a cover, he traveled to Germany where he was successful in securing a shipment of rifles. He traveled to America to brief the American branch of the IRB, Clan na Gael, on the preparation of the Rising. Modern revisionist have attempted to try and paint the Easter Rising as a hopeless and insane enterprise; this is a grave discredit

to Plunkett’s and shows little understanding on their part. Plunkett’s plan for the rising was highly sophisticated and showed a great deal of modern insight. Plunkett chose the GPO as the center for the rising because it was the center of telegraphy in Ireland, and throughout the Rising under Plunkett’s direction volunteers would broadcast the news of the Proclamation of the Republic to the outside world, specifically America. The goal of the Rising was not to beat the British in the field, but to hold on long enough to secure political recognition for an Irish Republic. In an early example of Special Operations, Plunkett assembled a team that knew electronics and the British Admiralty codes who were to seize a radio station and transmit false orders to clear the sea lanes of Ireland to allow the landing of the German arms shipment while sowing confusion in the British ranks that would cause them to hesitate sending reinforcements from Britain. This plan was a victim of the fortunes of war, which has scuttled the plans of many a general, when the German ship arrived early and was captured by the British Navy and Plunkett’s communication team met with a road accident on the way to their objective.

Despite a recurrence of his tuberculosis, an operation only weeks before the Rising and a doctor’s prognosis that he had only weeks to live; Plunkett aided by Collins joined the company of the Irish Volunteers and marched to seize the Post Office on Easter Monday 1916. Despite the exertions of marching to the GPO exhausting him, giving rise to the scene young Roddy Connolly recalled vividly in later years, Plunkett was later seen throughout the week actively engaged in the rising through the force of his will. Plunkett’s plan to get word of the rising to America worked, but the loss of the German arms and the lack of a rising in the rest of Ireland allowed the British to concentrate their forces on Dublin and savagely crush the rising.

Plunkett was tried by a British court martial and sentenced to be executed. The evening before his execution he was permitted to marry his fiancée Grace Gifford in the prison chapel, two British soldiers with fixed bayonets acting as the witnesses. This poignant moment is captured in the popular Irish song *“Grace”*. As he stood awaiting the firing squad, Plunkett’s final words to the priest accompanying him were *‘Father I am very happy. I am dying for the glory of God and the honour of Ireland’*. The priest said later that *‘his face reminded me of St Francis ... no fine talk, no heroics [but rather] ... a distinguished tranquillity that came from his nobility of soul’*. Joseph Plunkett was 28 years old.

History

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