

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

July 2014

Volume 2/Number 6

>>No Division Meeting in July<<

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers,

In a few days we will mark the 238th Birthday of our Republic and I would like to wish all of you a Happy Independence Day!

We need to celebrate! We need to feel good about our Nation! We need to remember the oath we took as Hibernians! We need to remember that God has placed us in a time of great challenges but that as American Catholics we have the unique and solemn privilege to cherish our liberty, our religious freedom, our heritage!

I have attached an extract of the graduation address given by Ambassador Michael Novak of Ave Maria University to the Class of 2014 of St Michael High School on June 6th:

"...Don't you dare think that the persecution of Christians will never come to America. Oh, for a long time it will not be that severe. First you will be called names. Then, when you voice your public beliefs, you will be punished for what you say. "You are on the wrong side of history," they will say. "You are a bigot."

The things you believe must not be said, ever, in an enlightened era. A priest here and

a nun there will be banished when they preach the gospel on controversial matters – unless they confess the opinions of secularists.

Where would this country be, if it had not been constituted by Christians? For Christians know from experience, their own experience first of all, that no man should be trusted with too much power. Every power must be limited by checks and balances. Why? Because every man sometimes falls. Our Constitution is not written for saints. It is written for us, as from our bitter experience we know ourselves..."

I offer the above remarks a thought provoker, a reminder that as Hibernians we must be defenders of our priests and our Church. This is the real challenge to our liberty, to our right to practice the Catholic Faith. If we don't, who will?

May God continue to bless you and your family!

Respectfully,

Bill

[Pray the Rosary!](#)

OUR JUNE SHAMROCK DEGREE RECIPIENTS!



(l to r) Pete Needham, Rich Delaney, Kevin Doyle, Jack Harris, Ed Kelly, Des Flanigan, David-Lee Chichester

The Major Degrees will be exemplified at the National Convention in St Louis (31 July ~ 3 Aug) and again at the 4th Quarter VAAOH State Board meeting scheduled for 11 October and hosted by the Father Kelly

Division in Manassas. As our Hibernian legend, Pat Troy, proclaimed: `You're not a true Hibernian until you've received the Major Degree!`

CONGRATULATIONS: MR. & MRS. JACK MCGOVERN



Hibernian Brother Jack and Jessica (Jess) McGovern were joined in Holy Matrimony on 28 July by our AOH chaplain, Father Kevin Fimian. On Sunday, family, friends, and Hibernians were invited to Jack and Jess's home to help celebrate. Among the many highlights of the day was this `Groom's` cake (which I hope will last forever in Lucite!)

2014 WASHINGTON, D.C. ROSE OF TRALEE



DC Rose, Allison Wetterauw, was selected as a regional finalist at the Rose of Tralee Regional Festival in Portlaoise, County Laois, Ireland on 1 June. Allison will travel back to Ireland participate in the Rose of Tralee International Festival in August. To follow Allison's journey to Regionals and beyond, find out more information about the Washington, D.C. Rose of Tralee Centre, find out how to participate in next year's selection, or sponsor a Rose see the [DC Rose Facebook](#) page.

✠ WORTHY OF NOTE: DIVISION GENEROSITY ✠

2014 Scholastic Grants: The 2014 Holy Cross Academy recipient of the General Meagher Division's annual scholastic grant is Alexis Green. Alexis will be attending Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School in the fall. St Patrick Elementary School selected two awardees. They

will split our annual scholastic grant. They are Brock Pilkerton and Sarah Ferrigan. Both awardees will attend St Michael the Archangel High School in the fall. Checks will be sent to the High Schools to defray the expenses of attendance.

2014 Diocesan Work Camp Support: This year the division supported four work camp attendees: one each from St Jude, St Mary, St Matthew, and St Patrick parishes.

Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project: The Division donated a substantial sum to the IVNVMP. Also, the proceeds from the June 17th 50/50 raffle were donated

IRELAND TODAY

What is Today's Ireland? Today's Ireland is available nationally on U.S. broadcast, cable and satellite. Today's Ireland is an initiative of MHz Networks, a media company headquartered in the Washington, DC which specializes in presenting international television programming to American audiences.

Today's Ireland brings programs from RTE, Northern Visions TV, TV3, Donegal TV, TG4 and irishtv.ie, in addition to independent productions from the Republic, the North of Ireland, and regional specialty programming capturing unique cultural events. GAA games are aired on weekends and the Fleadh aired exclusively throughout the U.S. on MHz last year.

MHz Worldview, the national channel of MHz, airs three hours of Today's Ireland programming daily, from 1-4 PM ET. To see the national TV channels and where to watch, click here: <http://www.mhznetworks.com/mhz-worldview/carriage>. In the D.C. area, you can watch three hours of Today's Ireland daily from 3-6:30 PM ET on MHz Networks 1 on digital broadcast 30.1, Comcast 271, Cox 470, Verizon FiOS 451, RCN 30, Dish Network 8077 and DirecTV 56 and 2183.

For more information, visit www.todaysireland.tv, or contact MHz at: todaysireland@mhznetworks.com.

CAPITAL IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

The Capital Irish Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Washington D.C.'s contemporary Irish arts organization Solas Nua, will run again in January 2015, from Thursday Jan. 22 through Sunday, Jan. 25. It will showcase new Irish features, documentaries, shorts and animation,

Irish language films, with a special emphasis on emerging talent in the Irish film industry. Now in its ninth year, CIFF has now become the largest Irish film festival in the area. For more information, visit <http://www.solasnua.org/ciff/>



An Irishman designed the White House

In 1792 George Washington and Thomas Jefferson organized a competition to decide who would build the domicile of the President, and the man who won was an Irishman named James Hoban. James Hoban was born in Ireland and he also studied

architecture in his homeland as well. Not only did he design it, but he also built it, and more than once. After the White House was destroyed in 1814, Hoban had to design and build it all over again. Only a true Irishman would be so stubborn.

CPL Patrick Gallagher, USMC, awarded the Navy Cross in 1967

At our June meeting I briefly discussed: The Secretary of the Navy has the authority to assign names to Navy ships. The tradition is to name Destroyer classes for heroes of the US Navy, Marine Corps & Coast Guard. There is some hesitancy to name a ship for a non-American. However, with your help and that of your friends and communities, the Secretary might be persuaded that USMC CPL Patrick Gallagher was fully committed himself to the USA, and we should celebrate his heroic service and its shining example to generations of immigrants that now make the U.S.A our home.

To HELP, sign the petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/patrickgallagher>

Of Interest



The White House announced it intends to appoint **Mr. Kevin F. O'Malley as the next Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland.** He will replace Dan Rooney, who resigned on December 14, 2012. O'Malley, a second generation Irish-American, holds dual citizenship (U.S. and Ireland). He is an active member of the Missouri Democrat Party, studied for the priesthood at St Vincent Seminary, and obtained his JD from St Louis University. He is an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve

Rory McIlroy announced he'll play for Ireland -- not Britain -- at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. McIlroy, who is from Northern Ireland, was raised a Catholic and grew up in the predominantly Protestant town of Holywood, east of Belfast.

A US Army Command and General Staff College(C&GSC) master's degree thesis written by Major William T Gillespie in 2001: [*The United States Civil War: Causal Agent for Irish Assimilation and Acceptance in US Society*](#)



HIBERNIAN FACTOIDS



34.1 million U.S. residents claimed Irish ancestry in our recent census. This number was more than seven times the population of Ireland itself



Ireland's three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: The **Giant's Causeway** (Co Antrim -- an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns), **Skellig Michael** (County Kerry -- a well-preserved monastic outpost of the Early Christian period),

(4.6 million). Irish was the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, trailing only German.



and **Brú na Boinne** (County Meath -- three large passage tombs -- Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth -- built about 5,000 years ago. The tombs, in particular Knowth, contain the largest assemblage of megalithic art in Western Europe).

‡ PRAYER LIST ‡

We pray for a speedy recovery for Brothers Mike Lenihan, John Walsh, John Hogan, Mike Creegan (Father Mychal Judge OFM Division) and Joan McCarthy, Gina McCord, David Lee Chichester's brother, and Dennis Ryan's friend, Cheryl Young. We pray for the repose of the soul of Hibernian Brother Myles Ambrose (Col. Cunningham Division) who died on June 3 at age 87.

!! UPCOMING EVENTS !!

NO DIVISION MEETING IN JULY

5 July: Lake of the Woods Fourth of July Festival – Trip for Two and Halfway ticket sales opportunity!

30 July-2 August: The 2014 *AOH National Convention* to be held at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel, St Louis, MO. The convention will open with an ice breaker on July 30 and close with the banquet on Saturday (2 Aug) evening. Exemplification of Major Degrees on Aug 2.

August 9: The Annual *Ballyshaners Festival* in Alexandria -- fund raiser to support the annual St Patrick Day Parade.

August 14: *Day with the Potomac Nationals* - Featuring an AOH color guard, brothers will sing our National Anthem and toss the first pitch.

August 19: Next Regular Division Meeting

August 23: *Mary's Shelter Annual Soirée and Fundraiser* featuring authors David Bereit and Simcha Fisher and guest speaker ,Diocesan Respect for Life Director, Sister Caire Hunter.

September 27: The *General Meagher Division Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration* at the Lake of the Woods clubhouse. Tickets are \$35/person and include an AOH pint glass with a free beverage, choice dinner of Corned Beef or Salmon, live Irish Music, an Irish dance performance and céili lessons. Venue is Lake of the Woods Clubhouse, 6:30-11:30PM. **For tickets, please call Neil Buttimer 540-972-0083 or Bill Halpin 540-972-5903**

October 11: VAAOH *Quarterly State Board meeting* followed by exemplification of the *Major Degrees* hosted by Father Kelly Division, Manassas.

October 18: *Paul Stefan Gala and Casino Night* (www.paulstefanhome.org)

GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing. For informal events (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps are priced as follows:

• Long sleeve polo: \$22.75 (XXL is extra)

- Short sleeve polo: \$19.75 (XXL is extra)
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25 (XXL is extra)
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

For semi-formal/formal occasions, the AOH `uniform_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and ball cap. These occasions include AOH Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, State and National conventions, all parades, and other public events.

- Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html. Say you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived.
- The AOH tri-color sash. The sash represents the national flag of Ireland as designed by our division namesake Thomas F. Meagher. AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email traceysbydesign@aol.com or D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>.

The sash should be worn over the right shoulder crossing to the left hip (see photo)



EDITOR'S NOTE: Every Brother is encouraged to submit an article for publication in the *Meagher Dispatches*. Make my job easier!

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