



**General Thomas Meagher Division
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

June-July 2008

Fredericksburg, Virginia Instituted: November 11, 1987
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM Membership: 20
Meeting Location: Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

PRESIDENT

Bruce A. Denault

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Vacant

RECORDING SECRETARY

Robert J. Sullivan

VICE-PRESIDENT

Robert E. Ghormley

TREASURER

Vacant

ORGANIZER

Vacant



President's Report

Regrettably, I must inform you of a crisis that has surfaced in our Division. Our Financial Secretary/Treasurer has moved to Illinois. In the conduct of a `turn over` audit, several discrepancies were noted. There are no financial records for this calendar year nor was there any indication that any Division Assessments to our State Treasury had been paid. More importantly, nearly \$1000 had improperly and illegally been withdrawn. I personally went to our bank and met with the Branch Manager. Together we audited the account and re-established signature cards.

In an attempt to recover the funds, I drafted a letter, signed by the Officers of the Division, informing our former Financial Secretary/Treasurer that his membership as a Hibernian has been terminated and that he has until September 1st to re-pay the Division or face possible legal action. This letter was sent by certified mail, one copy by first class mail and I will hand deliver a

copy the first week in July when I am in Illinois.

Our treasury has been reduced to less than \$500. Our Division has nearly \$800 in financial obligations, our Assessment and \$650 to St. William of York School. We had also intended a small stipend for our Delegate to the National Convention.

Solvency of our Division is now our #1 priority. To accomplish this we intend to:

- Immediately pay our Division Assessment (due by February 15) to the State Treasurer and pray our Delegate at the National Convention can still be seated despite our delinquency.
- Contact St William of York Parish and School and inform them of our situation in general terms. We will make good on our promise of \$650, but it will be delayed.
- Defer the stipend to our Delegate until we are more solvent.
- Host a coffee and doughnut breakfast at St. William of York Church one Sunday each month.



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We are working with the bank to ensure that in the future **NO** transaction in or for our account will be honored without two signatures. Whereas the two-signature requirement is specified in our By-Laws, the bank had recognized any single signature as long as it was on our signature card.

We are not sure of the impact this will have on our Division hosting the 2009 State Convention. We need the agenda for the convention and the requirements from the LAOH before we can determine that.

If anyone has any other ideas for a fund raiser, please, let me know. The sooner we are able to restore our treasury, the better we are able to support Catholic education and assist charities soliciting our aide.



Officer Vacancy

Needless to say, with the departure of our Financial Secretary/ Treasurer, we are in need of two volunteers to step up to the responsibilities. Having two officials will give us a degree of `checks and balances` we failed to have with only one person filling both billets. Our account is relatively small, and our activities are few.

Coffee and Doughnuts

Beginning this June, we will sponsor a coffee and doughnut breakfast the fourth Sunday of each month at St. William of York Parish. (The Knights of Columbus have been successful in raising between



\$50-\$100 each week they ran the breakfast.) This function is not labor intensive, but takes 2-3 Hibernians and/or family members to set up and monitor the activity between 6:30 am until after the 12:15 pm Mass. This gives us an opportunity not only to replenish our coffers, but also a chance to recruit new members. Volunteers can contact either Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, bdenault2002@yahoo.com, Shon Ramsel at 540-720-8904, sramsel@ikon.com or Bob Ghormley at 540-752-9613, bobkatss@infionline.net.



Membership

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 20 members. **We need to actively recruit!!** We need to revitalize our Division. We need to take advantage of every possible opportunity to make every Irish-Catholic man aware of us, what we do, and how to join!!

Upcoming Events

As a reminder, there is **NO** meeting in July. Hugh O'Brien, however, will be traveling to New Orleans as our Delegate at the National Convention.

During July, also, there will be a meeting of the Convention Committee. The date and time is not yet established. I will send out an e-mail to all so that those interested can attend.



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From now until the end of the year, we have the International Fall Festival at St. William of York and another Fall Festival at St. Mary's. To wrap up the year, we have Sgt. Kirkland Memorial, the Fredericksburg Christmas Parade and our election of new Officers.



Did You Know?

St. Michan's Church in Dublin has vaults in which entombed bodies have been preserved in its unusual atmosphere. The Dublin-born author of *Dracula*, **Bram Stoker**, visited the vaults and popular opinion believes they were the inspiration for his *Dracula* story. St Michan's vaults also hold the bodies for the Sheares brothers, hanged for their part in the 1798 rising. A reprieve arrived for Henry Sheares two days after hanging.



St. Columba

Saint Columba (521 - 597), sometimes referred to as Columba of Iona, or, in Old Irish, as Colm Cille or Columcille (meaning "Dove of the church") was an outstanding figure among the Gaelic

missionary monks who, some of his advocates claim, introduced Christianity to the Kingdom of the Picts during the Early Medieval Period. He was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland

Columba was born to Fedlimid and Eithne of the Uí Néill house in Gartan, near Lough

Gartan, County Donegal, in Ireland. On his father's side, he was the great-great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, an Irish high king of the 5th century.

In early Christian Ireland, the druidic tradition collapsed, with the spread of the new Christian faith. The study of Latin learning and Christian theology in monasteries flourished. Columba became a pupil at the monastic school at Clonard Abbey, situated on the River Boyne in modern County Meath. During the 6th century, some of the most significant names in the history of Irish Christianity studied at the Clonard monastery. It is said the average number of scholars under instruction at Clonard was 3,000. Twelve students who studied under St. Finian became known as the Twelve Apostles of Ireland, Columba was one of these. He became a monk and was ordained as a priest.

Tradition asserts that, sometime around 560, he became involved in a quarrel with St. Finnian of Moville over a psalter. Columba copied the manuscript at the scriptorium under St. Finnian, intending to keep the copy. St. Finnian disputed his right to keep the copy. The dispute eventually led to the pitched Battle of Cúl Dreimhne in 561, during which many men were killed. Columba's copy of the psalter has been traditionally associated with the Cathach of St. Columba. A synod of clerics and scholars threatened to excommunicate him for these deaths, but St. Brendan of Birr spoke on his behalf with the result that he was allowed to go into exile instead. Columba suggested that he could work as a



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Missionary in Scotland to help convert as many people as had been killed in the battle. He exiled himself from Ireland, to return only once again, several years later.

In 563, he traveled to Scotland with twelve companions where, according to his legend, he first landed at the southern tip of the Kintyre peninsula, near Southend. However, being still in sight of his native land he moved further north up the west coast of Scotland. In 563, he was granted land on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland, which became the centre of his evangelising mission to the Picts. However, there is a sense in which he was not leaving his native people, as the Irish Gaels had been colonizing the west coast of Scotland for the previous couple of centuries. Aside from the services, he provided guiding the only centre of literacy in the region, his reputation as a holy man led to his role as a diplomat among the tribes; there are also many stories of miracles that he performed during his work to convert the Picts. He visited the pagan King Bridei, King of Fortriu, at his base in Inverness, winning the king's respect. He subsequently played a major role in the politics of the country. He was also very energetic in his evangelical work, and, in addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries. He was a renowned man of letters, having written several hymns and being credited with having transcribed 300

books. One of the few, if not the only, times he left Scotland after his arrival was toward the end of his life, when he returned to Ireland to found the monastery at Durrow. He died on Iona and was buried in the abbey he created.

Several islands are named after Columba in Scotland - including "Chaluim Chille" (one of the Scottish Gaelic names of Iona), Inchcolm and Eilean Chaluim Chille.

St Brigid of Kildare Prayer

"I would like the angels of heaven- to be among us. . .

I would like an abundance of peace.
I would like full vessels of charity.
I would like rich treasures of mercy.
I would like cheerfulness to preside over all.
I would like Jesus to be present.
I would like the three Marys of illustrious renown to be with us.
I would like the friends of heaven to be gathered around us from all parts.
I would like myself to be a rent payer to the Lord; that when I should suffer distress~
He would bestow a good blessing upon me.
I would like a great lake of beer for the King of Kings.
I would like to be watching heaven's family drinking it through all eternity."

~St. Brigid of Kildare

OUR NEXT MEETING IS AT 7:30 PM TUESDAY, AUGUST 19
