



**General Thomas Meagher Division  
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

**September 2008**

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Fredericksburg, Virginia                      Instituted: November 11, 1987  
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM      Membership: 21  
Meeting Location: Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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**PRESIDENT**

Bruce A. Denault

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Joseph O'Connor

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Robert J. Sullivan

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Robert E. Ghormley

**TREASURER**

William Halpin

**ORGANIZER**

*Vacant*

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***President's Report***

Gentlemen, we are on!!! The State Board voted to hold the '09 State Convention in Stafford. We have much work ahead. I have asked the State Board for some information concerning past conventions. We have \$500 with which to work, and we will not be responsible for signing any contracts. Pat Naughton, our State President, and Sherri O'Neill, the State President of LAOH, will do that. Sherri will also be the LAOH representative to assist us ((540) 427-1246, [oneill2u@yahoo.com](mailto:oneill2u@yahoo.com)). Any member of our Division who wishes to lend a hand and/or has any ideas, please, let me know!

At our last meeting we voted to place the raffle `on hold\_. We will re-surface the motion when our Division's treasury is stronger and the financial risk to the Division is reduced. In the interim, we need ideas for less-risky fundraisers. Whereas the coffee and doughnuts are bringing in a little revenue, the `return\_ based on time and effort spent in minimal.

***Coffee and Doughnuts***



We sponsor a coffee and doughnut breakfast the fourth Sunday of each month at St. William of York Parish. Thus far, it has been successful and has the potential for far more success. This function is not labor intensive, but does take 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](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com), Shon Ramsel at 540-720-8904, [sramsel@ikon.com](mailto:sramsel@ikon.com) or Bob Ghormley at 540-752-9613, [bobkatss@mac.com](mailto:bobkatss@mac.com).

***Membership***

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 21 members. **We need to actively recruit!!** We need to revitalize our Division. We need to take advantage of every possible



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opportunity to make every Irish-Catholic man aware of us, what we do, and how to join!!

***Tower Degree***

The world famous Brian Boru Degree Team will conduct the Tower Degrees in Ocean City, Maryland on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Any member of our Division who has not yet received this degree is encouraged to take it. Please contact [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com) or call (540) 446-9123 if interested.

***Upcoming Events***

From now until the end of the year, we have:



**The International Fall Festival at St. Mary's.**

October 10<sup>th</sup> from 5PM until 10PM. We will serve corned

beef and cole slaw as well as beer.

Volunteers please contact Jeff Fitzpatrick at 540-898-8597, [Jeff@blueandgraybrewingco.com](mailto:Jeff@blueandgraybrewingco.com)

**Fredericksburg Christmas Parade** is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>. As I get details, I'll pass them along.

**The Laying of the Wreath at Sgt. Kirkland Memorial,**

1013 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, is scheduled for 2pm on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A reception will follow at the Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home on Harrison Road.



And, lastly, we have our election of new Officers on November 18<sup>th</sup> during our monthly meeting.

***Unfinished Business***

In the past, there had been an expressed interest in our Division starting an honor/color guard for participation in parades. If that interest still exists, please contact Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com)

If there is an interest in purchasing shirts, hats, jackets or any other Division-specific clothing, again, please contact Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com)

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***The Rose of Tralee***

**The Rose of Tralee** festival is an international competition which is celebrated among Irish communities all over the world. The festival takes its inspiration from a nineteenth century Irish ballad of the same name about a woman called Mary, who because of her beauty was called 'The Rose of Tralee'. The words of the song are credited to C. (or E.) Mordaunt Spencer and the music to Charles William Glover, but a story circulated in connection with the festival claims that the song was written by William Pembroke Mulchinock, a wealthy Protestant, out of love for Mary O'Connor, a poor Catholic maid in service to his parents. The idea for the festival came when a group of local business people met in Harty's bar in Tralee to come up with ideas to bring more tourists to the town during the horse racing meeting and to encourage ex-pats back to their native Tralee. Led by the late Dan Nolan, managing director of The Kerryman newspaper, they hit on the idea of the Rose of Tralee festival. The competition started in 1959. Originally, only women



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from Ireland were eligible to compete, it was then extended to include anyone of Irish descent, regardless of where they are from.

The Rose of Tralee festival is now held annually at the end of August in Tralee, County Kerry, to choose a young woman to be crowned the Rose. The winning Rose is the woman deemed to best match the attributes relayed in the song: "lovely and fair". The winner is selected based on her personality and should be a good role model for the festival and for Ireland during her travels around the world. In contrast to beauty pageants, there is no swimwear section in the Rose of Tralee contest and the contestants are not judged on their appearances but rather their over-all personality and suitability to serve as ambassadors for the festival.

Each of the 32 counties in Ireland select a Rose and there is also a Rós Fódhla representing the 'gaeltacht' or Irish speaking areas in Ireland. Regional finals are held in June where six Irish girls are selected to take part in the International Rose of Tralee festival. Roses from Kerry, Dublin and Cork automatically qualify for the festival held in August.

There are international Roses chosen from around the world who also participate in the Rose of Tralee festival. These include the centers of Birmingham, Boston, Darwin, Dubai, France, London, Luxembourg, Newcastle, New York, New Orleans, New Zealand, Perth, Queensland, San Francisco, Southern California, South Australia, Sydney, Texas, Toronto and many more

centers who take part in the qualifying rounds.

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***Commodore John Barry***

(1745 - 13 September 1803) was an officer in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War and later in the United States Navy. He is often credited as "**The Father of the American Navy**". Barry was born in Tacumshane, County Wexford, Ireland and appointed a Captain in the Continental Navy 7 December 1775. He commanded *Lexington*, *Raleigh*, and *Alliance*. He and his crew of the *Alliance* fought and won the final naval battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 1783. He was seriously wounded 29 May 1781 while in command of *Alliance* during her capture of HMS *Atalanta* and *Trepassey*. Barry was successful in suppressing three mutinies during his career as an officer in the Continental Navy.

He was still in command of the *Alliance* when it participated in the last battle of the Revolutionary War.

Appointed senior captain upon the establishment of the U.S. Navy, he commanded the frigate *United States* in the Quasi-War with France. Barry authored a Signal Book published in 1780 to improve communications at sea among vessels traveling in formation.

On February 22, 1797, he was issued Commission Number 1 by President George Washington, backdated to June 4, 1794. His title was thereafter "Commodore." **He is**



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**recognized not only as the first American commissioned naval officer but also its first flag officer.**

Commodore Barry died at Strawberry Hill, in present-day Philadelphia on 13 September 1803, and was buried there in St. Mary's Cemetery.

### **Saint Kieran**

***A visionary who founded a great Irish monastery  
(516?–549?)***

Also known as *St. Ciaran*

Born in Roscommon, Connacht, Kieran left his boyhood home to study at the famous monastery at Clonard in Meath. From there he went to Aranmore in Galway Bay, where, like most contemporary saints, he communed with the holy abbot Enda. One night, the two men had a shared vision of a great tree, heavy with fruit, by a stream in the middle of Ireland. Enda interpreted this to mean that Kieran should go and search for such a place and found a church there.

Obeying the vision, Kieran eventually settled at Clonmacnoise on the Shannon River and established (548) one of the greatest Irish monasteries, which attracted scholars from all over Europe. Kieran did not direct the monastery for long, however, as he died of a plague in early middle life. Despite Viking raids and a dozen major fires, the monastery survived for 1,000 years, until it was destroyed by the English in the 16th century.

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***OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>***

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