



## GEN. THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 2011

### **Happy St Patrick Day all TFM Brothers and families!**

Ten brothers attended our March meeting last evening. A smaller number than attended in February.

This month we considered *four new applications*, elected three brothers (tabled one for lack of sponsorship), and initiated one. We welcomed Bill Gilhooly from St Jude Parish; and Paul Simmons and Roy Delaney from St Patrick Parish. We plan to administer the Shamrock degree to five or six brothers at our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is important that a maximum number of our Order attend this meeting to welcome these fine men into the Order.

Father Rooney, pastor at St Mary, has given us permission to sell raffle tickets after Mass and for recruitment related articles to be printed in the Church bulletin. Also, Father Rooney will discuss our division chaplain position with Father Bresnahan. Holy Cross Academy principal, Sister Susan Louise, thinks it is “great” that AOH will be supporting a HCA student as he/she enrolls in a Catholic High School. At a future date (TBD) I’ll present the AOH “pitch” to the men of the UMW Catholic Ministry.

By vote, the division modified our Rose of Tralee requirement. We will continue to require a pro-life commitment, but will consider non-Catholic contestants per International Rose of Tralee guidelines. As the division evolves and becomes more active in the local community division charity guidelines may require modification and are being studied by the charities committee.

National AOH is selling a medallion commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the AOH. I bought one and encourage every brother to do the same. Here is the order form.

A.O.H.\_MEDALLION.  
doc

Our Division will sponsor the VAAOH State Board Meeting to be held at St Michael the Archangel High School on April 16, 2011. The meeting will start at 10 AM; generally, sponsors assure coffee/donuts are available prior to the meeting and that lunch meats/rolls/potato chips and beverages are available for lunch. The four brothers

who volunteered to help set-up, serve, and clean-up are asked to arrive before 9:30 AM

St Patrick Day Parade saw the “usual suspects” leading the march (see below). We hoped to see more brothers and family members with us. Our third annual Trip for Two raffle kicked-off at the parade; our thanks go to Hugh O’Brien and Joe O’Connor for manning the ticket sales table for the better part of three hours. In this regard, I suggest each brother commit to sell at least 50 tickets (not including after Mass and other “group” sales).



(l to r) Brothers Gene McKenna, Logan Denault, John Hogan, Bruce Denault, Joe O’Connor, Bill Halpin, and Hugh O’Brien (not pictured is the Shane Quinlan family). The division was assisted by Bruce’s granddaughters, Evelyn and Madeline Vioral

On March 14<sup>th</sup> John Hogan, Hugh O’Brien and I traveled to Arlington and represented the Division at the 32<sup>d</sup> annual Gaelic Mass at St Charles on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Assisted by the Celtic Choir, Father Gerry Creedon celebrated Mass and delivered his typically dynamic, Irish-centered homily (in English thank you!). Following Mass we were entertained by spectacular Irish dancing, impromptu song, and ample refreshments.

Still to come this month are:

**Holy Cross Academy St Patrick Day Dinner** March 17<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30PM: This is a Division sponsored event, so I ask for maximum TFM Brothers attendance. Kate Riley may attend this to promote the Rose competition.

**St Michael Church in Annandale:** On St Patrick Day 30,000 green, white, and orange flags will be placed on the church lawn. When placed, the flags will create the Irish tri-color and will represent the estimated 30,000 abortions in Virginia during 2010. Check out [http://catholicherald.com/local\\_news/detail.html?sub\\_id=15296](http://catholicherald.com/local_news/detail.html?sub_id=15296)

Too late to attend, but something to track/be aware of: Today U.S. Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in

Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), and Co-Chairman Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), will hold a **hearing on Northern Ireland**. The hearing will look at continued calls for independent inquiries and accountability for past abuses by security services in Northern Ireland, and will examine implementation of key provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, including those relating to policing and the administration of justice in the region.

May 27: **Irish Heritage Night** at Washington Nationals Ballpark at 7:05PM (Nats vs. Padres). Come out and celebrate our Irish heritage at Nationals Park. To sign up for this great opportunity to share our heritage and promote AOH, contact our Treasurer Shane Quinlan ([shanemquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:shanemquinlan@gmail.com))

July 21-24: The **Biennial State Convention** will be held in Richmond. Our Division is looking for two delegates to the convention. These two are in addition to Brothers Halpin, Denault and O'Brien who have voting privileges based on their state board affiliation. Brothers interested in being delegates -- please identify yourselves! Our Order's Major (Tower) Degree will be administered on Sunday, July 24th; the State Board will recognize all 21st Century division presidents (for us that means: Mike McGee, Bob Sullivan, Bob Ghormley, Bruce Denault, and Bill Halpin). Major Dooley Division is sponsoring a golf outing on July 22d at the Providence Golf Course. Cost is \$60. Best ball format with awards for closest to the pin, longest drive, etc.

**Need a Green Sport Jacket?** Vice President Denault identified a local outlet for AOH green sport blazers. Financial Secretary Gene McKenna was the first to buy one and reported a Men's Wearhouse special deal for Hibernians: We can buy a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. For the meeting Gene dressed in the typical AOH "uniform" for parades and other semi-formal occasions. He wore his new green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. The sole outlet for this deal is the Men's Wearhouse located at 1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park. Our primary point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).

**Dues:** Current and past due 2010 dues (for 2011 dues are \$30.00) can be mailed to:

Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick  
Meagher Division Financial Secretary  
237 Hillcrest Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Our website is being upgraded so continue to check [www.fredericksburgaoh.org](http://www.fredericksburgaoh.org)

**Our next meeting will be at 7:30PM on April 16, 2011.**

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Sláinte!

Bill Halpin  
President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
540.972.5903  
202.213.5625