



**GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION**  
**SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1**

**March 2012 Highlights**

**Welcome:** We're welcoming a new brother, Jack McGovern. Jack is transferring into Gen. Meagher Division from LTC Dowd. He's a St Patrick Parish parishioner and a lieutenant in the Fredericksburg Fire Department.

**On March 12th,** five TFM Brothers travelled north to attend the annual Gaelic Mass at St Charles Church in Arlington. Your Division represented the largest single contingent there and nearly 50% of the VAAOH attendees. I thank Brothers Hogan, Logan, McKenna and Phillips for taking the time to attend this important annual event. Cork native, Father Gerry Creedon, celebrated Mass and led the musical entertainment in the parish center after the service. We thank PSP Jim Carmody for his organization of this important annual Irish-Catholic/Gaelic celebration.

**On March 17<sup>th</sup>** we led the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual St Patrick Day parade at the Blue & Gray Brewery. This year we were fortunate and pleased to be accompanied by a former D.C Area Rose of Tralee, Maureen Hasson.



### **A genuine Rose among real thorns**

(Not pictured, but in attendance were Brothers Jeff Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Connor and Bill McCarthy).

We kicked off our *Fourth Annual Trip for Two to Ireland* raffle at the festival following the parade. At our meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, nearly half of the 1,000 tickets were taken by our brothers anxious to make this year the best raffle in our short history.

*On March 18<sup>th</sup>*, Brothers Halpin, Hogan, Logan, McCarthy, McKenna, and Phillips, accompanied by family members, attended Mass at St Patrick Church. This was the first time many green jackets were in evidence at Mass. *A tradition begins...*

**Life House Ireland** based in Frederick, MD, is working hard to inform Irish-American Catholics about Ireland's struggle to maintain its pro-life ethos and laws -- to keep abortion out of Ireland. This year, there is a strong effort by the EU court to push abortion on the Irish people against their will (BTW this is the same court that ordered the crucifix removed from Italian classrooms last year). If you look at the Life Institute website ([www.lifehouseireland.org](http://www.lifehouseireland.org)), and search for the ABC case, you will be able to read their analysis. Two other Irish pro-life groups worthy of note are Youth Defence ([www.youthdefence.ie](http://www.youthdefence.ie)) and Life Institute ([www.thelifeinstitute.net](http://www.thelifeinstitute.net)). I

suggested Life House representatives be invited to speak at a Virginia State Board and a Tri-State Board meetings.

**Recruiting:** We accepted Father Rooney's generous invitation to set up a recruitment table after all Masses on March 24/25 at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception. The parish bulletin will contain a short 'history' of AOH/Division and an application form. We'll set up a table and schedules are being organized -- so stay tuned.

**25th Anniversary:** Fraternal Year 2012 marks the 25th year of the General Meagher Division. I asked that we attempt to contact the 14 lapsed charter members to invite them to a planned dinner celebration to be held o/a November 27th.

### **General Meagher Division Attire:**

- **Green Jacket:** Men's Wearhouse (1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park) offers Hibernians a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. Typically, the AOH 'uniform' for parades and other semi-formal occasions is green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).
- **AOH Sash:** Tri-color AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00. Patricia guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund. Mail your order and payment check (payable to Tracey's By Design or Patricia Ankrom) to: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Road, Quinton, VA 23141. For more information, email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- **Division Logo Items:** long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:
  - Prices are:
  - Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
  - Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
  - Sweat shirt: \$21.25
  - Ball Cap: \$14.00

**Dates to Remember:**

- **Major Degree** Exemplification -- Ocean City, MD on April 14th
- **Halfway to St Patrick Day** celebration, Lake of the Woods, Sept 15th

**Prayer List:** Please pray the return to good health/speedy recovery of our Brothers Bob Errickson, Bill Callahan, and Ron Cullen and Bruce Denault's sister and sister-in-law, Joe Daley's sister, and John Hogan's wife.

**Next Meeting:** April 17<sup>th</sup> **NB:** State President Chuck Curran will make a special presentation so please plan to attend!

**In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,**

Bill Halpin

President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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