

# IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

June 2015

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**President:** Jim O'Donnell    **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian    **Vice President:** Bob Stevens  
**Financial Secretary:** Bill Gilhooly    **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd    **Recording Secretary:** Kevin Doyle  
**Standing Committee:** Jim McMorro    **Marshal:** Neil Mulcahy    **Sentinel:** Rusty O'Brien,  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

***THE DIVISION DOES NOT MEET IN JULY!***

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Brothers,

We are halfway through the year! Where has the time gone? We continue our activities at full tilt. We have participated in two graduation ceremonies and awarded \$3000 in Scholastic Grants to deserving young students of our two Catholic Grammar Schools who will be going on to St. Michael the Archangel High School and St. John Paul the Great High School.

Additionally, several of us will be attending the quarterly state meeting in Virginia Beach, and we will be preparing to attend the biannual state convention in August.

Most importantly, I would call your attention to our First Annual Hibernian Family Picnic to be held at Clubhouse Point at Lake of the Woods on July 12, 2015. Initially we have six brothers and their families signed up. This will be a great opportunity for each of us to come together for some summer fun. RSVP to Shane Quinlan @ 540-220-5608; [Shanemquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:Shanemquinlan@gmail.com) by July 1, 2015.

God continues to bless our works. I encourage you all to enjoy the summer with your families. I wish you all the best for a most relaxing summer. May St. Patrick watch over you and yours.

In Our Motto,

Jim

**DIVISION UPDATE**

At our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting **Brother Des Flanigan** moved that the division encourage every brother to engage in a letter writing campaign to make our elected and appointed government leaders aware that we are praying for them to make choices and decisions that are pleasing to God. These letters will be written by individual Brothers without reference to the Division or to AOH. The motion was seconded and passed. The letter campaign should include letters to the editor as well. On 21 May, the *Free Lance Star* printed Bill Halpin's letter to the editor entitled 'Keep America :One Nation Under God'. On 2 June, Des Flanigan's letter to the editor entitled 'Prayer-Letter Campaign Could Change Politics' appeared in the *Free Lance Star*. It is hoped a coordinated letter writing campaign will begin that consistently and continuously expresses our Irish-Catholic values and concerns.

**Brother Bill Phillips** moved that the division donate a sum of money to the St Patrick Church 'To the Glory of God' campaign in Bill McCarthy's name. After a friendly amendment by Bill Halpin to increase the amount, the motion, was seconded and passed.

**Brother Phillips** also moved that the Shamrock Charity Golf Classic be renamed the Bill McCarthy Memorial Tournament 'in perpetuity'. This motion was seconded and passed.

**Brother Jeff Banks** presented a 30 minute recapitulation of his recent visit to Belfast. He included photographs and detailed histories of places and events of interest.

## 2015 MEAGHER DIVISION SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

### St Patrick Elementary School



School Principal George Elliott, Ryan Malanga, Kennedy Sewell, Daphnie Sowa, Pastor Fr. John Ziegler  
The three awardees are en route to St Michael the Archangel High School in September

## Holy Cross Academy



Father Don Rooney (our AOH Brother) and Marcus Mayo, who is en route to St John Paul the Great High School in September



### UPDATE ON HERITAGE COMMITTEE PLANNED EVENTS

We are pleased to report that Dan Butler, Tom Evans, and Pat Fogarty have volunteered to help the committee organize these events!

**Summer Picnic:** Shane Quinlan volunteered to organize our first June pot-luck family picnic, *tentatively* scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> (kick off at 1PM) on the point at the Lake of the Woods clubhouse. This location offers, swimming, fishing, a shaded picnic area with grill, and a kiddies' playground. Shane will be providing updates!

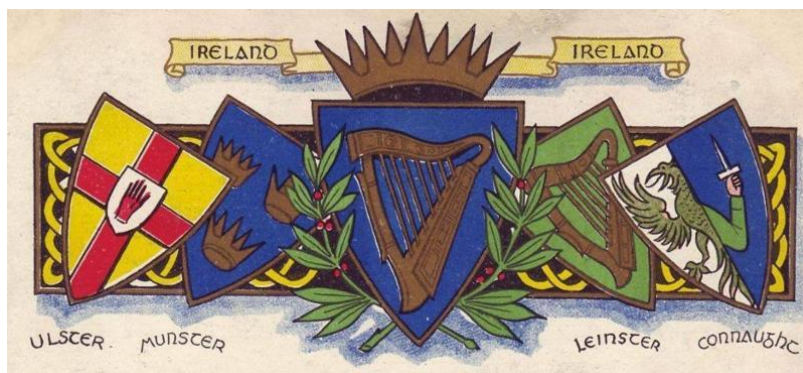
**Halfway Party:** The Halfway to St Patrick Day celebration is on track: we have signed contracts for the venue and the band. Now we need to begin advertising and ticket sales. I know some the St Mary parish brothers have connections to UMW Catholic Youth Center and the UMW Eagle Pipe Band. These might be good places to start spreading the news! Keep in mind the traditional purpose and our goal for a Halfway Celebrations is to bring Irish music, dance and culture to the local community. Harry Crisp is the Fredericksburg/St Mary Parish point of contact.

**Christmas Party:** Arrangements are in place for the date (*Sunday, December 6th*), the time (*2-8 PM*), and place (*St Michael the Archangel High School*). This party is intended to be pot-luck, with the division supplying beverages. We can use the kitchen to warm food and we can have access to the high school pool (\$10/hour for a life guard). Entertainment for the children can include a visit with an Irish Santa, face painting, a balloon artist, and other ideas as they become

apparent. [**NB:** December 6th is the feast day of St Nicholas, who is the inspiration behind the legend of Santa Claus. In about 1210 A.D., St Nicholas was buried on the grounds of the Church of Saint Nicholas, a church his family built in Newtown Jerpoint (the "lost town"), County Kilkenny, Ireland.]

**Craft Distillery Tour:** Based on positive comments from John Hogan and Shane Quinlan, we are offering to arrange for a Division tour of Fredericksburg's Bowman Distillery, where hand crafted small batch bourbon, whiskey, rum, gin and vodka are produced and sampled. This could be followed by lunch at Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick's restaurant - Lee's Retreat. Express your interest in joining the tour (probably late on a Saturday morning) by emailing Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net)).

## OUR HERITAGE



## SAINT COLUMCILLE

From time-to-time, the Virginia State Board, Ancient Order of Hibernians recognizes a Brother for exceptional service to the AOH over an extended period of time. Three General Meagher Division brothers (Fitzpatrick, Halpin, and O'Connor) have been honored with this award in the recent years.

But who was St Columcille after whom this prestigious award is named?



Saint Columcille, Apostle to the Picts

Saint Columcille (Irish: *Colum Cille* (church dove)) was born in modern County Donegal in 521. On his father's side, he was great-great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, an Irish high king of the 5th century. He was an abbot and missionary credited with spreading Christianity throughout the region and establishing several monasteries. He is the Patron Saint of Derry and was highly regarded by both the Gaels of Dál Riata and the Picts (*Dál Riata* was a Gaelic Irish 'overkingdom' that included western Scotland and northeastern Ireland). ColumCille is one of the *Twelve Apostles of Ireland*; he studied under St Finian at his monastic school Clonard Abbey, County Meath.

Around 563 he and his twelve companions crossed to Dunaverty in the Irish kingdom of Dál Riata, eventually settling in Iona where he founded the important abbey. This was their base for spreading Christianity among the pagan Pictish kingdom and it remained a dominant religious and political institution for centuries. ColumCille remained active in Irish politics, although he spent most of the remainder of his life in Dál Riata (present day Scotland). He died in 597 and today he is remembered as Saint Columba.

After Viking attacks on Iona, Cináed mac Ailpín, first king of the United Kingdom of Dál Riata and the Picts, is believed to have moved relics of St. ColumCille to Dunkeld, which became the headquarters of the Scottish Columban church. (Cináed mac Ailpín was the son of Pictish King Alpín (or descendant of Ó hAilpín ũ ).

## SOME JUNE DATES OF INTEREST

June 1, 1866 - The Irish Fenians invade Ft. Erie Ontario from the US

June 3 - Feast day of Saint Kevin, also known as Coemgen and Kevin of the Angels. He is the patron of blackbirds, the archdiocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.

June 6

1798 - Rebellion breaks out in Ulster: Henry Joy McCracken issues proclamation calling United Irishmen in Ulster to arms

1968 - Sirhan Sirhan, a 24-year-old Palestinian, opens fire with a .22 caliber revolver and shoots Senator Robert Kennedy in the head at close range. He is rushed to The Good Samaritan Hospital where he dies the next day

June 9, 597 - **Death of St. Columcille**, also the feast day of St Columcille, one of the spiritual giants of the early Christian church and one of Ireland's three patron saints.

June 11, 2000 - Thousands of Irish Christians **march for Jesus**. The giant Praise and Prayer Rally takes place outside government buildings in Dublin

June 13, 1886 - Molly Malone reputedly "dies of the fever". The famous song, "Sweet Molly Malone" is a tribute to the memory of a real person who was a fishwife selling cockles and mussels in the streets of Dublin. A statue of her can be seen at the foot of Grafton Street in Dublin. In popular Dublin parlance, she's referred to as "The Tart with the Cart and "The Dish with the Fish"

June 14, 1690 - William of Orange lands at Carrickfergus

June 17, 1959 - Eamon de Valera becomes President of Ireland

June 20, 1810 - Parliament passes Unlawful Acts Bill, extending powers against secret societies (like AOH!)

June 22, 1866 - Archbishop Cullen becomes the first Irishman elevated to Cardinal

June 23, 1704 - The Registration Act comes into force requiring all Catholic priests in Ireland to register in court, to furnish two £50 bonds for good behavior, and not to leave the county in which they are registered

June 25, 1970 - Restrictions on Catholics attending Trinity College removed

June 26, 2000 - The IRA makes a major symbolic break with the past by disclosing that for the first time, it has opened up its arsenal of guns and bombs to outside inspection

June 28, 1922 - The Provisional Government of the Irish Free State bombards the Four Courts in Dublin, and the Civil War begins



***Irish Historian:*** Looking ahead to **September 15th**, Kevin Donleavy of Charlottesville is scheduled to speak. Kevin is author of *The Irish in Early Virginia 1600-1860*, a past Fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, a retired Latin teacher, and he plays in an Irish band. His commitment to Irish cultural history spans forty years. He also has an Irish radio program heard on [WTJU.net](http://WTJU.net).



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Past Division Presidents Phil Booty and Bill McCarthy, our Brother Mick Lenihan, and Brother George Beck (Vice President of the Fr. Mychal Judge O.F.M. Division, who died on May13th), and Timothy Jones (Bunny McMorrow's son). May God's perpetual light shine upon them; May they rest in peace.

Please keep in your prayers Brothers Joe O'Connor, Jim McMorrow, David Lee Chichester, Joe Daley, Larry Pratt, and Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster); Matthew Carroll, the inspiration behind the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial

Project; and Daniela Donovan, Muggivan Irish Dance School, who has supported our division for several years.

**Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States** for the strength to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that this country will always be `one nation, under God`.

**Praying the Rosary is critically important** in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements. To wit: In a speech delivered on April 25, 2015, Hillary Clinton, while discussing gay marriage and abortion, said: `deep-seated cultural codes, *religious beliefs* and structural biases *have to be changed*`.`

**Who are these people who denigrate Christianity, insult those who “cling to their Bibles” and seek to change religious beliefs instituted by Jesus Christ?**

**Why should they be considered to lead our nation?**

The world will not be destroyed by evil - it will be destroyed by those who watch evil at work without doing anything about it (attributed to Albert Einstein).

In 1571 the Holy League defeated an attack by the Ottoman Empire -- a Sunni Islamic state referred to as the "eternal enemy of the Christian" -- in the Battle of Lepanto. The victory was credited to the Virgin Mary whose intercession with God was implored through praying the Rosary. To commemorate the battle, Pope Pius V instituted the feast day of Our Lady of Victory (now celebrated as Our Lady of the Rosary -- October 7th).



***Mark Your Calendars!***

***Multiple Dates:*** Bingo every Thursday and Saturday evening starting at 6:30PM - at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 ((540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

***Multiple Dates:*** Roller Derby at Golden Skate World (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife), (540-295-2464)

**June 16<sup>th</sup>:** Division meeting

**July 4<sup>th</sup>:** Selling Trip for Two raffle & Halfway Celebration tickets at the Lake of the Woods July Fourth celebration. Need volunteers to help with this!

**July 11-12:** Selling tickets (raffle and Halfway) at St Jude

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** First Division Family Pot-Luck picnic; `The Point\_ at Lake of the Woods Clubhouse

**July 25-26:** Selling tickets (raffle and Halfway) at St Patrick

**September 12: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration**, 6:30-11PM, at Seacobeck Hall, 1301 College Street, Fredericksburg (University of Mary Washington)

**September 15:** Kevin Dunleavy will speak on the *Irish in Virginia 1600-1860*

**September 19:** *Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing at Blue & Grey Brewery*

**December 6: Family (Pot Luck) Christmas Party at St Michael the Archangel High School!**



### GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For **semi-formal/formal occasions**, the AOH `uniform\_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, parades, and other public events.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and the ball cap.

**Division Logo Items:** Brother Ed Kelly ([EJKelly@yahoo.com](mailto:EJKelly@yahoo.com)) will order Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

- Sport Tek Long sleeve polo: \$28.95 (XXL is extra)
- Sport Tek Short sleeve polo: \$26.95 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Long Sleeve polo: \$22.75 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Short Sleeve polo: \$19.75 (XXL is extra)
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25 (XXL is extra)
- Ball Cap: \$14.00



**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source: [http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html). Visit the website; call the 800 number. Tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

**AOH Sash:** The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to jacket collar) crossing to the left hip (see photo). Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>

