

# IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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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 McMorrow    **Marshal:** Neil Mulcahy    **Sentinel:** Rusty O'Brien,  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers,

Where has the time gone? I can't believe that we are now in the fall. We are in the final quarter of the year, and St. Patrick has watched over us and helped us to have a most successful year. From our successful fund drives to the increase in our membership this has been a most blessed year.

October is the month the Church dedicates to the Holy Rosary. At the state AOH board meeting held last month, Meagher Brother and State Vice President, Bill Halpin introduced and had a motion passed that all of us say a special rosary on October 7 to seek Our Lady's intercession to help us face the threats to our Church and our beliefs both internal and external that we face today. Here is a little historical background to give some more context and meaning to Bill's efforts:

*Early tradition attributes the defeat of the Albigensians at the Battle of Muret in 1213 to the Rosary. But even those who do not accept this tradition will admit that St. Pius V attributed the great defeat of the Turkish fleet on the first Sunday of October, 1571, to the fact that at the same time the Rosary confraternities at Rome and elsewhere were holding their processions.*

*"Today, when dangers far greater than those of the ancient Turks threaten not only Christianity but all civilization, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help. If men in sufficient numbers do this, and at the same time carry out the other conditions that she has laid down, we have the greater reason for confidence that we will be delivered from our dangers." -- Mary in our Life by Fr. William G. Most*

While saying the rosary this month I would ask you to remember our immediate late past president, Bill McCarthy. No other man I know had a greater devotion to Our Lady and the recitation of the Rosary than Bill. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting, October 20. May St. Patrick continue to watch over you and yours.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Jim

## NOTES FROM THE QUARTERLY VAAOH STATE MEETING

**New State Chaplain:** We are grateful that Father Kevin Downey, O.F.M., Pastor of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Triangle, VA and chaplain of the Father Mychal Judge, OFM Division, has accepted the position of VAAOH State Chaplain. He replaced Father Timothy Harris, T.O.R. who is currently assigned to Vienna, Austria.

**A Resolution:** VAAOH State President Gene Bransfield has chosen *Living the Faith of Our Fathers* as our state theme for next two years. Our nation is facing internal and external threats demanding Hibernians publically live our faith.

Internal threats include `progressive` politicians who suggest that murder is a `woman`s health` issue; that our religious beliefs and freedoms must be forfeited if we are to be in step with `modern` America. As recently as August 27, 2015, a Democrat candidate for POTUS equated pro-life advocates (by definition all Catholics) with `terrorist groups` adding (we) `refuse to live in the modern world` (and we) `espouse out-of-date and out-of-touch policies` for 21st century America. (Washington Post, Aug 28, page A-3).

External threats include Islamic Jihadists who are waging war to destroy Western Civilization. That hasn't changed in 444 years. In 1571 Christian forces were facing an overwhelming Sunni Caliphate army. Pope Pius called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory over what he referred to as the `eternal enemy of the Christian`. Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary and the Pope led a Rosary procession in Rome praying for Christianity's victory. The jihadists were defeated at the Battle of Lepanto and the Pope declared **October 7<sup>th</sup>** to be the **Feast of Our Lady of Victory**.

Praying the Rosary is critically important as we try to defeat threats from these patently evil elements. Prayers were answered in 1571 and can be answered again in 2015. I move that each division, as a unit or individually, resolve to ***Pray the Rosary on October 7, that Our Lady of Victory will deliver us from these evils.*** The motion was seconded and passed

## TRIP FOR TWO TO IRELAND RAFFLE

On a beautiful September day, the 2015 General Meagher Division Trip for Two Raffle winning ticket was drawn by Jim McMorrow at the Blue and Gray Brewery Oktoberfest. Showing true Hibernian spirit, Jim who is recovering from serious illness and surgery, made the effort to be present at the drawing. This year 98.4% of our raffle tickets were sold. This enables to Division to continue its charitable works in the coming year, so thank you to the brothers who diligently sold tickets and to all of the people who support our raffle each year. PSP Hugh O'Brien represented winner, Joe Kiely of St Jude Parish, with the winner's check. Joe emigrated from Ireland in 1954.



Jim McMorrow (I) with Pres. Jim O'Donnell    Hugh O'Brien with Joe Kiely

## OUR IRISH HERITAGE



*“We must study our Heritage, for we can only pass on what we preserve. If we only retain trivia ... and fashionable, but distorted versions of our history from uniformed media, we have nothing of lasting value to offer our children about who they really are.” National AOH Historian, Mike McCormick*

**In the occasional series on Irish patriots and as the centennial of the Easter Rising is around the corner, it's time we turn to the Heroes of 1916.**

### Patrick Henry Pearse

*“Blood is a cleansing and sanctifying thing and the nation that regards it as the final horror has lost its manhood... there are many things more horrible than bloodshed...”*

Pádraig Pearse (10 Nov 1879 - 3 May 1916) was an Irish teacher, barrister, poet, writer, nationalist, political activist and one of the leaders of the Easter Rising in 1916. Following his execution along with fifteen other leaders, Pearse came to be seen by many as the embodiment of the rebellion.

Pearse along with his brother Willie and sister Margaret were raised in Dublin. Their father, James Pearse, established a stonemasonry business; he was a mason and monument sculptor, originally from Birmingham, England. Although his father had very little formal education, Pearse grew up surrounded by books. James's second wife, Margaret Brady, was from Dublin, and her father's family was from County Meath. All were native Irish speakers. This Irish-speaking influence, together with his schooling at the Christian Brothers School Westland Row, instilled in Patrick an early love for the Irish language. Pearse became involved in the Gaelic revival.

In 1896, at the age of 16, he joined the Gaelic League (*Conradh na Gaeilge*). In 1900 Pearse was awarded a BA in Modern Languages (Irish, English and French) by the Royal University of Ireland, for which he had studied for two years privately and for one year at University College Dublin. In the same year he was also enrolled as a Barrister-at-Law at the King's Inns. In 1903, he became editor of the Gaelic League newspaper *An Claidheamh Soluis* ("The Sword of Light").

His heroes were ancient Gaelic folk heroes such as Cúchulainn, though in his 30s he began to take a strong interest in the leaders of past republican movements, such as the United Irishmen Theobald Wolfe Tone and

Robert Emmet. Both had been Protestant, but it was from such men that the fervently Catholic Pearse drew inspiration for the rebellion of 1916.

Pearse believed language was intrinsic to the identity of a nation. The Irish school system, he believed, reared Ireland's youth to be obedient to the crown and an alternative was needed. For him saving the Irish language from extinction was a priority. To show the way in 1908 he started his own bilingual school, St Enda School (Scoil Éanna). The pupils were taught in both Irish and English.

Pearse's restless idealism led him in search of an even more idyllic home for his school. He found it in the Hermitage, Rathfarnham, to which he moved St Enda in 1910. However, the new school caused financial difficulties. To raise money, he travelled to the United States in early 1914. He met John Devoy and Joseph McGarrity who were impressed by his fervor and supported him in raising sufficient money to guarantee the future of the school.

He was one of four speakers who addressed a large Home Rule Rally in Dublin in March 1912. Speaking in Irish, Pearse said he thought that "a good measure can be gained if we have enough courage", but he warned, "Let the English understand that if we are again betrayed, there shall be red war throughout Ireland." In April 1912 the British government introduced an Irish Home Rule Bill.

In November 1913 Pearse was invited to the inaugural meeting of the Irish Volunteers, a militia unit formed in reaction to the creation of the Ulster Volunteer Force, an anti-Home Rule militia. A month later, Pearse was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood, an organization founded in 1858 and dedicated to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland by force. He was soon

co-opted onto the IRB's Supreme Council and was then one of many people who were members of both the IRB and the Volunteers. When he became the Volunteers' Director of Military Organization in 1914, he was the highest ranking Volunteer in the IRB. By 1915 he was on the IRB's Supreme Council and its secret Military Council, the core group that began planning for a Rising while World War I raged on in Europe.

On 1 August 1915 Pearse eulogized the Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. His closing words were:

Our foes are strong and wise and wary; but, strong and wise and wary as they are, they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. And the seeds sown by the young men of '65 and '67 are coming to their miraculous ripening today. Rulers and Defenders of the Realm need to be wary if they would guard against such processes. Life springs from death; and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations ... They think that they have pacified Ireland.

They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but, the fools, the fools, the fools! - They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, *Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.*

Pearse was chosen to be the spokesman for the Rising. It was Pearse who, on behalf of the IRB shortly before Easter in 1916, issued the orders to all Volunteer units throughout the country for three days of maneuvers beginning Easter Sunday, which was the signal for a general uprising. When Eoin MacNeill, the Chief of Staff of the Volunteers, learned what was being planned, he countermanded the orders, causing the IRB to issue a last-minute order to go through with the plan the following day, greatly limiting the numbers who turned out for the rising. (Editor's Note: There's always one fly in the ointment when it comes to crossing the line of departure phase of Irish revolutions.)

When the Easter Rising eventually began on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, it was Pearse who read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic from outside the General Post Office, the headquarters of the rising.

Here

**POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.**  
**THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
 OF THE  
**IRISH REPUBLIC**  
**TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

**IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

Here We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

Here The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

*Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,*

THOMAS J. CLARKE,  
 SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,  
 P. H. PEARSE, EANNON CEANNI,  
 JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.



Brother Mike McCormick, National AOH Historian, has published numerous booklets and essays, produced informative CDs and DVDs on the history, and music of Ireland. For a complete list of Mike's work and ordering information visit: [www.shamrockandclover.com](http://www.shamrockandclover.com)

I've read Mike's newest book ***The Road to Rebellion***. It is an excellent, illustrated chronicle of the reasons for the Easter Rising, the events of the six-day battle, and profiles of the 16 executed patriots. ***This book should be required reading for all Hibernians as we prepare to celebrate the centennial in 2016.***

### Did You Know?



Most Hibernians know the national color of Ireland is St Patrick blue. But, do you know how the green we wear originated? The British reacted to the Rising of 1798 with intimidating repression of both Catholics and Dissenters (Protestants who did not support the Church of Ireland). It seemed the only symbols of Irish pride remaining were their colors: Catholic St Patrick blue and the Protestant orange. In tribute to the United Irishmen who led the Rising of 1798, Irish nationalists mixed the blue and orange creating a dark green. This dark green became the symbol of Irish nationalism and was quickly banned by the British. Display of this shade of green in any form was a crime. In 1802 Robert Emmet led a failed Rising. In 1803, he was captured, hung, drawn and quartered, and beheaded. In reaction to the brutality of his execution, many Irish chose to display a piece of the dark green cloth. However, since this color was illegal and in short supply, Irish nationalists began wearing a sprig of shamrock in their lapel or hat. Over time this morphed the dark green of the late 1790s into the lighter green we're familiar with today. Now you know the rest of the story (from *The Road to Rebellion*).

### Bowman Distillery Tour October 3d

Fourteen brothers, spouses and guests toured the Bowman Distillery on a rainy Saturday. A very impressive tour indeed, followed by tasting some of the Bowman products, including rum, bourbon, gin and a bourbon crême (similar to Baileys). The tour lasted about 90 minutes and was followed by lunch at Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick's Lee's Retreat restaurant. Our thanks to Andy Link for arranging the distillery tour and lunch at Lee's Retreat



**Tour Guide Michelle**



**“George”**



**So, which is your favorite?**



**Bourbon at rest**



**Lunch at Lee's Retreat**





## OUR DIVISION PRAYERS



Please pray for the repose of the souls of deceased Gen. Meagher Division Brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members. May God's perpetual light shine upon them; May they rest in peace.

Please keep in your prayers to comfort and heal Brothers Joe O'Connor, Jim McMorrow, Andy Link, Rusty O'Brien, Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster); and Matthew Carroll, the inspiration behind the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project



## UPCOMING EVENTS



***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) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended a Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

**October 7:** ***Feast of Our Lady of Victory*** -- a day for all Hibernians to say a Rosary praying for victory over internal and external threats to our religious freedom.

**October 20:** Nominations for officers to serve in fraternal year 2016

**November 17:** Election of officers for fraternal year 2016

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

**December 15:** Installation of 2016 officers



## 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** ([EJPKelly@yahoo.com](mailto:EJPKelly@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. 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>