



FRIENDSHIP, Unity and Christian Charity



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

April 2017

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**President:** Shawn Lenahan    **Chaplain:** Father Jerry Wooton    **Vice President:** John Tracy  
**Financial Secretary:** Bob Fitzgerald    **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett    **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer  
**Standing Committee:** Dave McLaughlin    **Marshal:** Paul O'Brien    **Sentinel:** Jack Grey; **Webmaster:** John Hogan    **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

*Cáisc shona dúit*  
(Happy Easter)

*President's Corner*

Brothers:

Irish American Heritage Month was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated in the parades, library displays and Mass. We truly brought Irish heritage and culture to the Fredericksburg area and you are all to be commended.

Now, we must turn a laser focus toward the Golf Tournament. We are less than a month away. Have you done your part to solicit for sponsors or prizes? Are you playing in the tournament and have you recruited others to play or will you be a volunteer the day of the event? We need everyone's participation to make this a success. The charities, parishes and students that we support or relying on you!

Do not forget your recruiting efforts. Everyone who brings a candidate application to this month's meeting will be entered into a drawing for a free lunch. So far our Immediate Past President Andy Link has the only name in the hat.

Please remember those on our prayer list as well as for the repose of the brother's we have lost.

*May your neighbors respect you,  
Trouble neglect you,  
The angels protect you,  
And heaven accept you.*

In Our Motto,  
Shawn Lenahan





*“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”*

### *Get in the Picture*



Nine Brothers enjoyed the third monthly “Lads Luncheon” held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Hard Times Café to show appreciation for another generous donor to our Hibernian events.

Because the next in sequence for a Lad’s Gathering would be Palm Sunday, President Lenahan asks that we gather at the St Jude Parish Fish Fry April 7th 4-7 PM

### **Trip for Two Raffle Ticket Sales – A Team Sport**

Ticket sales were brisk on St Patrick Day at the Brother Tom Evan’s pub and at the Bowman Distillery during the annual Irish festival. We still have a long way to go; we’ll need every brother’s help to make 2017 the most successful raffle to date!



With owner/Brother Tom Evans - Red Dragon Parade      Hugh & Dave- Post-St Patrick Day Parade



### **Irish-American Heritage Month**

We completed another successful Irish-American Heritage Month. We had great turnouts for our Division Mass at St Patrick Church, the St Patrick Day parade and the Irish Festival. This year our IAHM theme was Irish Saints and Scholars. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the *Free Lance Star* kicked off IAHM with an article on how American history is influenced by the Irish. Creative displays depicting our theme and related Irish-American history were placed in four area libraries and seven Brothers donated time and knowledge -- responding to questions, passing out information papers, and discussing Irish culture. The Muggivan School of Irish Dance performed magnificently at the Salem Church library. During the month:



We celebrated IAHM with Mass at St Patrick Church co-celebrated by Chaplains,  
Father Jerry Wooton and Father Kevin Fimian

...and the Division marched in parades – Alexandria and Fredericksburg



Father Fimian blessed the Fredericksburg parade

... and we volunteered nearly 50 hours at area libraries spreading the good word on Irish Saint and Scholars plus Irish-American history, tradition, music and culture



(Not pictured: Paul O'Brien & Jim O'Donnell)

# march is irish american heritage month

## Ireland: The Isle of Saints and Scholars

### the saints

Before Christianity the Irish were Druids who built some of the most impressive ritual sites found in Europe. Most famous is the passage tomb of Newgrange built during the Stone Age. The Druids built monuments all over Ireland, to signify the importance of their beliefs and worship of the sun.



St Palladius was consecrated by Pope Celestine and sent to be the first Bishop to the Irish believing in Christ. He landed at Whilow in 431AD but his stay would be very short lived. The inhabitants banished him from their land. St Palladius next landed at the Orkney Islands in Scotland and never return to Ireland.

St Patrick arrived in Ireland in 432AD. He landed on a small island near Dublin which is now named Irish-Patrick. He converted the son of Irish Chieftain, Benignus to Christianity, it's believed St Patrick founded a monastery on the island which flourished until the invasion of the Vikings. In modern day County Down, St Patrick converted a local pagan Chieftain, Dichu mac Tichin, who donated a barn to St Patrick, converted into a church. His gentle approach convinced the Irish to be baptised and convert to Catholicism. Saint Patrick used the shamrock to teach the Irish about the Holy Trinity. He continued

his mission in Ireland for about 30 years. St Columbkille studied at Movilla under St Finnian and then at Clonard with another St Finnian, and became a monk at Glenties under Molu. He spent the next 15 years preaching and teaching in Ireland. As was the custom, he combined study and prayer with manual labor. By his own natural gifts he soon became a monk of unusual strictness. By the time he was 25, he had founded more than 27 monasteries, including those at Derry, Down and Kells. In 563, he crossed the Irish Sea and landed on the island of Iona (The Holy Island). Eventually, Iona became the heart of Celtic Christianity and its existence was one of the strongest influences in the conversion of the Picts, Scots, and Northern English.



St Brigid of Kildare was an Irish nun, abbess, and founder of several convents. She held the rank of Bishop and ranks only behind Saint Patrick himself in importance. In 470 she founded Kildare Abbey, a monastery for both nuns and monks known as the "Church of the Oak". She is buried in Downpatrick, near St Patrick and St. Columbkille.

St Brendan was ordained 512. Brendan traveled widely to evangelize and establish monasteries. One journey, passed orally for generations, was written in the 9th century: *Manegote Sancti Brendani* (The Voyage of St. Brendan). This book, widely known among cartographers, convinced Christopher Columbus to sail beyond the western horizon to America.



### Astronomy and Navigation

In the 8th century Irish astronomers proclaimed the earth to be round "like an apple" and "round as an egg". Irish astronomer Dungal of Bangor named seven planets in our solar system (Saturn, Juh, Mercur, Mars, Sol, Linnit, Juvet). As written in *Saltair na Rann*, a 10th century history of the world. Brendan the Navigator sailed to North America ca 525 AD.

Source: *Case of St Patrick's comments referred to in Ireland's case when the colonies of Ireland were being the 18th century.*

### 800-1900AD

The Viking invaded in the 9th century and for the next two hundred years the arts of learning and of peace were banished from Ireland. Gipsy Hovs defeated the Vikings at Clontarf in 1014.

This was followed by English invasion and occupation--an 800 year era of ultimate resistance, of sophistication and grandeur, of tyranny and liquidation, and years of terror and death. The spirit of literature was banished out of this people and all instruction, intelligence, wisdom and natural ability that had come down from their ancestors before them were driven out of them. It wasn't until the close of the 19th century that Irish literature and scholarship was renewed. Source: *John Lynam, Wmson R and X, Christo Monk, 1900*

### others followed

**Samuel Beckett** (1906-1989) Irish dramatist and novelist. Nobel Prize in Literature, 1969.

**James Joyce** (1882-1942) Irish novelist, poet, and short story writer. Nobel Prize in Literature, 1942.

**W.B. Yeats** (1898-1933) Irish poet, dramatist, and Nobel Prize in Literature, 1923.

**George Bernard Shaw** (1856-1950) Irish playwright, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1925.

### the scholars

**400-800AD**  
For four hundred years from the 3th through the 8th century, monasteries and places of learning sprang up all over Ireland and Irishmen were welcomed with distinguished honors at every court and seat of learning in Europe.

It is certain Ireland had the use of letters long before others... written Irish is first seen in Ogham inscriptions from the 4th century. The early literary history of Ireland began long before any other European country (source: *Monaster of the Reverend Geoffrey Keating, D.D., Michael Doherty, 1857*)

Ireland can boast of being the birthplace of high culture as early as the 5th century... in the 5th century Ireland was a "beehive of learning"--teaching in Gaelic, Latin and Greek. Innumerable Irish scribes devoted their lives to creating beautiful books in Ireland and on the Continent (e.g. *Book of Kells*).

### 19th century

1877 saw the establishment of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language. The Gaelic Union, founded in 1880 produced the Gaelic journal, and in 1884 the Gaelic Advertiser Association inspired Irish nationalist sports.

The *Abbé* (later no Gaelic Gaelic revival) took root in the 1830s with increasing interest in Irish language and culture including folklore, sports, music, arts, etc. spread. Gaelic Irish had been outlawed for nearly 200 years. In 1853, the Comhaltas na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) was founded with the goal of encouraging the use of Irish language in everyday life. Other cultural movements such as the Gaelic League and the Irish Literary Revival became forces within the revival.

Important writers of the Gaelic revival include Fr. Peter Clary who wrote *Slindro* the first major work of modern literature in Irish; Patrick Pearse considered the first modern writer in Irish; Máirtín Ó Súilleabháin, perhaps the best writer of the period who published more than 400 short stories. Poets and scholars, like Pearse, MacDiarmada, et al, led the 1916 Easter Rising.

### the ancient order of hibernians

"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"  
The General Thomas F. Maguire (1856-1940) - Abbot of Tuam, 1918-1920. Presiding rights of Columba's Council House at 40 St. Stephen's Road. All social transactions: [www.hibernians.org/PresidentMaguire.pdf](http://www.hibernians.org/PresidentMaguire.pdf)

The actual CRRL Graphics Department board was 6x4 feet!



Our DIVISION Prayers



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** President Lenahan appointed **Jack Grey, Chairman, Committee of the Sick.** He asks that prayer requests be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)//540-373-4496). It might be wise to let your spouse/family member know this too, just in case you become ill or hospitalized.

In July 2016 Pope Francis declared "*We are living in a moment of annihilation of man as image of God*". He recalled Pope emeritus Benedict's pronouncement: "*It's the epoch of sin against God, the Creator.*"

Pray for the repose of the soul Brother Neil Mulcahy and all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- Bill Phillips' brother Robert;
- Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo (cancer) and his father Joseph Monaghan Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- Hugh O'Brien's brother, John O'Brien (recovering from stroke);
- Rochelle Grey (hip surgery);
- Amy Whittaker (cancer),
- Andy Link's parents Eileen and Dick (Dick is Eileen's care giver),
- Matthew Carroll (IVNVMP)



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

**April 7: Lad's Gathering at St Jude Parish Fish Fry 4-7 PM** (Adults \$10, Children \$5, Family \$30)

**April 8:** The VAAOH State Board is sponsoring Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, University of Limerick, to speak on "**The Positive Role of Irish-America in Ireland's Independence Movements since 1798**" at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, 3-5PM. Donations to defray expenses will be appreciated.

**April 18: General Meagher Division Meeting**

**May 1: 4th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic, Meadows Farms Golf Course**

**May 2: Irish Heritage Night** at Nationals Stadium – see the Washington Nationals play the Arizona Diamondbacks. Obtain discounted tickets at [www.nationals.com/Irish](http://www.nationals.com/Irish) and use **Promo Code: IRISH**

**May/June: (Date still is TBD) the second quarterly VAAOH State meeting – hosted by Monsignor Kelley Division, Richmond, VA**

**June/July: (Date TBD) 3d Annual family picnic**

**September 16: Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle drawing at Adventure-South Oktoberfest (Note: 2017 Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration is cancelled)**

**September 22-24: VAAOH Biennial State Convention, Virginia Beach Resort Hotel**

**October 28: Gen. Meagher Division's 30th Anniversary Dinner Party**



*General Meagher Division 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.

**Division Logo Items: The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))**

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**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. 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:** Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)  
She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers "special prices" for larger orders.  
<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>