



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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President's Corner

Brothers,

We are already one month into 2018, it's amazing how time flies the older we get! Though the weather was cold I wish to thank David McLaughlin, Hugh O'Brien, Peter Carroll and my two boys, James and Adam, for taking part in this year's Religious Freedom parade.



Brothers, as Hibernians, one of our goals is to promote life and to counter the culture of death embraced by so many today. It is with this in mind that I am sorry to report that the US Senate blocked the HR 36 Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. It is inexcusable that the United States is one of only seven countries, including North Korea and China that

allow this barbaric procedure. Not surprisingly, our two representatives in the Senate, Kaine and Warner, voted to continue the practice. I ask each and every one of you to contact them and express your dissatisfaction with their vote and ask them to reconsider their positions. Please also pray for these men that they will have a change of heart.

March is rapidly approaching and of course that means Irish American Heritage Month. As in years past, we will have a display in each of the libraries. This year's theme is Social Evolution of the Irish. The 16th Annual Jeff Fitzpatrick St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place March 17th at Adventure Brewing South- please mark your calendars. We will gather at 11AM for a noon parade step off. If you have not already done so, please RSVP through the evite sent out to each of you. As always, we are looking for maximum Hibernian participation. We will officially kick off our raffle ticket sales at the festival afterward. And of course, it is a lot of fun!

In Our Motto,

Shawn M. Lenahan
Division President



Enchanting Ireland, A Visual Journey

S. Dillon Ripley Center
1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC

March 3rd | 9:30am – 4:00PM

Program includes lunch, a whiskey tasting, and an overview of Irish history, literature and theatre. To find out more about this event [click here.](#))

Book review: *Irish Nationalists in America: The Politics of Exile 1798-1998*, by David Brundage (Oxford University Press 2016). I'm reading this excellent history of Irish nationalists in the U.S. tracing the role of Irish-Americans and Irish exiles from Wolf Tone's 1798 Uprising to the era of Gerry Adams and the 1998 Good Friday agreement. A good read for anyone interested in the history of the American ideological and financial connections to Ireland throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. (Available at Amazon and other outlets)



“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.”

St Brigid



St Brigid's Cross

February 1st is St Brigid's Day. This iconic woman is one of the most amazing role models in Irish history and yet amazingly many people have forgotten her story. While 'Iconic' and 'role model' are commonly used phrases and may have become trite, their power and meaning are true of this fascinating woman. She is one of three Patron Saints of Ireland, along with St Patrick and St Columcille.

Born in Dundalk in 450 AD, St Brigid was the founder of the first monastery in County Kildare (*Cill Dara*: "church of the oak"). Her mother, a Christian Pict slave, was baptized by Saint Patrick. Brigid's father was a pagan chieftain of Leinster and when she was ten years old, she was a servant for her father.

St Brigid is also known as Mary of the Gael (*Muire na nGael* (Our Lady of the Irish)). She called on God's help to convince her father to give her land in Kildare to build a convent. Her father said that he would only give her as much land as her cloak could cover. With God's help, the cloak grew to cover acres of land. With that Brigid and seven companions organized a communal, consecrated religious life for women. Also, she founded two monastic institutions, one for men, and the other for women. St Brigid died at the age of 75 in AD 525 and was buried in the church she created. Her remains were exhumed years later and brought to Downpatrick to be buried alongside Saints Patrick and Columcille; however her skull was moved to Lisbon.



John Francis O'Mahony, Fenian leader

O'Mahony was born in 1816 in Kilbehenny, County Limerick. His father and uncle were members of the United Irishmen and fought in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. He studied Sanskrit, Hebrew and Irish at Trinity College; however, he left Trinity without earning a degree. None the less, he became an accomplished Gaelic scholar, taught Greek and Latin and wrote for Irish and French journals. In 1857 he published History of Ireland, by Geoffrey Keating, D. D., translated from the Original Gaelic and Copiously Annotated).

In 1843, he joined Daniel O'Connell's Repeal movement but became dissatisfied with the lack of progress and the required pacifism. He joined *Young Irelander* movement and along with Thomas Francis Meagher took part in the failed Rebellion of 1848. Subsequently, he self-exiled and together with James Stephens, settled in Paris to study the revolutionary tactics of the French revolution. In 1854, O'Mahony moved to New York City where he co-founded (with Michael Doheny) a new Irish revolutionary society, the Robert Emmet Emigrant Aid Association. On St Patrick Day 1858, the Emigrant Aid Association morphed into the Fenian Brotherhood (known as the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland). This association's objective was a free Ireland by any means. O'Mahony's Gaelic studies resulted in name "Fenian" -- a legendary Irish militia.

At the end of the U.S. Civil War a high number of Irish-American soldiers were anxious to see service in the freedom of Ireland. However, British spies and a Fenian schism in 1866 ultimately resulted in another failed Rising in March 1867.



O'Mahony devoted the last years of his life to literary pursuits, but suffered from ill health and poverty. He struggled to maintain bare subsistence. When his poverty was discovered, he declined to receive assistance in any shape.

He died in New York City on February 6, 1877. His remains were taken to Ireland and interred with the honors of a public funeral in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin.

← John O'Mahony grave in the Fenian Plot, Glasnevin, Dublin



Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman. Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting (RHGrey@cox.net//540-373-4496).

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

- **Marie Larzelere**, FS Bob Fitzgerald's mother-in-law who died on Feb 7, 2018
- **Nolan Banks**, 3 year old son of our former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS) which can be very aggressive. Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle. **Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton**, a candidate for future canonization (for the actual prayer see my email 10/18/2017 9:37 AM).
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia
- **Robert Phillips** Bill Phillips' brother
- **Donna Maffeo** Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law Also Joe's father, Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother (recovering from stroke);
- **Amy Whittaker** (cancer)
- **Eileen and Dick Link** (Dick is Eileen's care giver),



Mark Your Calendars!

Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

February 18: *Lad's Luncheon* at J Brians Tap Room, 1PM

February 20: Division meeting

March 1-31: Irish-American Heritage Month This year's theme is *Irish Societal Evolution 1840-1900*. Dates and Times for each library are TBD. Volunteers needed!

March TBD: *The annual Division IAHM Mass*

March 3: 37th Annual Alexandria St Patrick Day parade. The Grand Marshals are Pat and Bernadette Troy. Meagher Division participates

March 10: Annual Manassas St Patrick Day Parade

March 13: Annual *Gaelic Mass*, 7:30pm at Saint Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 North Cathedral Lane, Arlington. Hosted by Col Fitzgerald Division #1 Arlington

March 17: Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade at AB South, Fredericksburg, Division to assemble at 11:15AM



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)

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source:

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. 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. <http://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the General Thomas F. Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.

