

# THE CRESCENT HARP

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN LOUISIANA

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AUGUST—OCTOBER, 2009

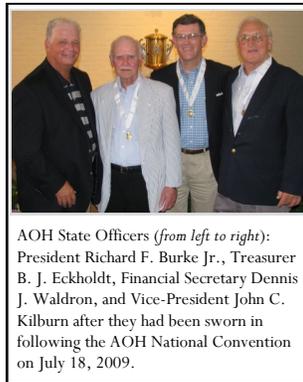
## LOUISIANA AOH HOLDS ITS FIRST STATE CONVENTION IN OVER FIFTY YEARS

The Louisiana State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held its biennial State Convention on Saturday, July 18, in the St. Dominic School Gymnasium in New Orleans. The convention opened with an invocation by the Very Rev. Neal P. McDermott, O.P., the Pledge of Allegiance and “O’Donnell Abu” by the members.

The convention, the first in Louisiana since the end of the Second World War, was called into session by State President Richard F. Burke Jr. who promoted the need to revive the State Convention in the off year between the biennial national conventions. Past State President and Past Man of the Year Patrick J. Sens presided as Convention Chair.

More than sixty representatives from all Louisiana divisions addressed a comprehensive

agenda of issues that included more involvement by the members, recruitment of new members, bringing the AOH in Louisiana more in line with the national organization, and open discussions on how



AOH State Officers (from left to right): President Richard F. Burke Jr., Treasurer B. J. Eckholdt, Financial Secretary Dennis J. Waldron, and Vice-President John C. Kilburn after they had been sworn in following the AOH National Convention on July 18, 2009.

best to continue the AOH principle of Christian Charity.

The day long meeting focused on all aspects of Hibernianism that included defense of the Irish heritage, assistance to

Irish immigrants, and a strong Pro-Life platform. National Treasurer James F. McKay III gave a national report and lauded the efforts by the Louisiana Hibernians to move forward with the organization.

In addition, the members elected its state officers, returning President Burke for another two-year term, and electing John C. Kilburn Vice-President, B.J. Eckholdt Treasurer, and Dennis J. Waldron as Financial Secretary. All four were sworn in during the Mass that concluded the convention. Fr. William O’Riordan, chaplain of the Cardinal Gibbons Division, celebrated the Mass.

All members gathered at the conclusion of the day for dinner at the Steak Knife restaurant in Lakeview.



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[www.aohla.com](http://www.aohla.com)

Facebook - Louisiana State Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 11—AOH Family Mass and Breakfast—8:45 a.m., St. Dominic Church

October 15—**ARCHBISHOP HANNAN AND CARDINAL GIBBONS DIVISION MEETING**— Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., Business Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

October 23—Annual AOH Raffle—7:00 p.m., St Dominic Gymnasium

## AOH RAFFLE SET FOR THE OCTOBER 23

The AOH Annual \$10,000 Raffle is set for **Friday, October 23, 2009**, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Dominic Gymnasium. 300 tickets will be available for \$100 per ticket. The ticket includes dinner

for two and the opportunity to win \$10,000.

The Annual Raffle is the chief means by which the AOH is able to raise funds for its charitable activities such as the Presentation Sisters

Retirement Fund.

For more info on the Raffle, please call Raffle Chairman Tommy McCrossen at 504-461-7274 or e-mail John Fitzmorris at [taoiseiach@cox.net](mailto:taoiseiach@cox.net).

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## President's Message

*Brother Hibernians,  
I hope that you all enjoy this newsletter as part of our plan to present to you news and articles regarding all aspects of the Irish community in New Orleans and Irish culture in general. One of our plans is to have as many of you as possible submit to this newsletter your thoughts and feelings on what it means to be a Hibernian and why you continue to participate in the foremost organization for Irish Catholic men.*

*For me, I joined this Ancient Order back in 1988 because I wanted to learn more about my Irish heritage and share fellowship with other men of Irish ancestry. The parade that my father founded and that my brothers and I and so many others established in the Irish Channel celebrates not only a neighborhood but also the great Irish people who placed*

Richard F. Burke Jr.

*their stamp on New Orleans from the time of their first arrival.*

*In becoming a member of the AOH, I have been able to continue the tradition set down by my Irish ancestors of being charitable through the Friends of St. Alphonsus, the Retirement Fund for the Presentation Sisters and the Southern Dominican Province.*

*Most importantly, though, from an early age, my father gave me a sense of my Irish heritage and what it meant to be Irish and Catholic in this day and age. Thus, I have passed on my Irish heritage to my own two sons. As a Hibernian, I hope to continue passing on my love of all things Irish to future young men who celebrate the Irish spirit of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. God Bless.*

*To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government, to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils, and to assert the independence of my country, these were my objects. To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishman, in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter, these were my means.*

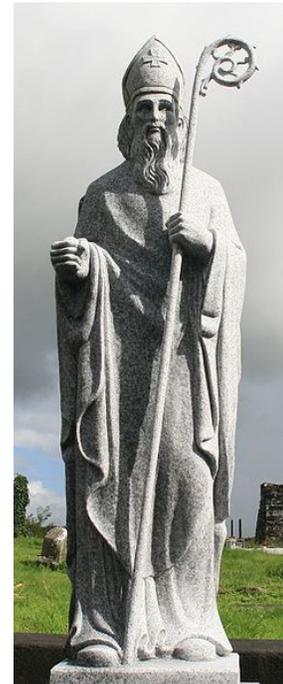
- Theobald Wolfe Tone  
(1763-1798)

## Chaplain's Message

In this section of the *Crescent-Harp* our state and division Chaplains will have the opportunity to offer us some spirituality and reflection.

As Hibernians, we dedicate ourselves to St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland; and we continue to devote ourselves to the protection and promotion of the Roman Catholic Clergy.

As such, we continue to rely on the clergy and our chaplains for guidance, in both good and difficult times. Very few of us can ever forget the wonderful "coaching" we sometimes received from the late Msgr. John P. Reynolds. It is our hope that this section will become for our Chaplains a means by which our moral and spiritual lives can receive guidance and direction from time to time.



JAMES  
CARDINAL  
GIBBONS  
DIVISION



## DIVISION NEWS

The Archbishop Hannan Division of the AOH will host the first AOH Family Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at St. Dominic Church, at 9:00 a.m.

All Hibernians and their families are invited to attend this first-time event. After the Mass, the AOH members and their families are invited to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Vicksburg Street for breakfast.

The AOH Family Mass and Breakfast is another part of the AOH's commitment to increase its membership and involvement. By having such Masses and activities, the AOH promotes itself and its message of Christian Charity to the public at large and brings home to the AOH to its members' families. For more information, please contact John Fitzmorris at 504-952-9925.

ARCHBISHOP  
PHILIP M.  
HANNAN  
DIVISION



2009 Irishmen of the Year Gary and Milo McCarthy pose in front of the Irish Flag in the grotto of St. Alphonsus Church. Although rain dampened their jackets and hats that day, it could not quench the spirit of the Irish and the Brothers McCarthy.

This year's Irish Channel Mass and Parade will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at St. Mary's Assumption Church.

## FROM AROUND THE IRISH COMMUNITY

**Fr. Neal McDermott, O.P.** is hosting Irish Tenor **Anthony Kern** on **Friday, October 16**, at Dominican High School. Proceeds go to benefit the Office of Catholic Schools. Tickets are \$50 for the show and \$125 for dinner and the show. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and the show follows at 7:30. For more information, call the Archdiocese at 861-9825.

**The Emerald Society of New Orleans** is hosting a fundraiser for JPSO Lt. **Craig Alombro**, who was injured during Hurricane Katrina. The \$10,000 Raffle will be held **Sunday, November 1, 3:00 p.m., at Southport Hall** off River Road. Tickets are \$100 per person. The Emerald Society's \$10,000 Raffle will be held on December 4th.

**GOT NEWS ABOUT THE  
IRISH IN NEW ORLEANS???  
PUT IT HERE IN THE AOH  
NEWSLETTER!**

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## MORE NEWS FROM AROUND THE IRISH COMMUNITY

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The **Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club** will hold its 63rd Annual Mass and Parade celebration on **Saturday, March 13th, 2010, 12:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Assumption Church** (corner of Constance and Josephine Streets) followed by the parade (corner of Felicity and Magazine) at 1:00 p.m. The Practice March is Friday, March 5, 2010 and the benefit block party will take place on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Annunciation Square Playground, directly in front of St. Michael's Special School; to whom the proceeds of the block will be donated.

The Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club was organized in the Channel in 1947 and has remained in the

area with its annual mass and parade for 60 years. The club's 1,400 members are ethnically diverse, all claiming strong ties to the Irish Channel neighborhood.

In recent years, the organization's activities have expanded to include Special Olympics, the Crohn's Benefit Golf Tournament for Crohn's Research, distribution of Thanksgiving baskets and active support for the Friends of St. Alphonsus Art and Cultural Center.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians has proudly participated in the Irish Channel Parade for the past ten years and we look forward to continuing that great tradition in 2010.

## HISTORICAL MOMENT—SIR ROGER CASEMENT

**Roger David Casement** (Irish: *Ruairí Mac Easmainn*; September 1, 1864 – August 3, 1916) was an Irish patriot, poet, revolutionary and nationalist. He was a British consul by profession, famous for his reports and activities against human rights abuses in the Congo and Peru, but better known for his dealings with Germany before Ireland's Easter Rising in 1916.

An Irish nationalist and Parnellite in his youth, Casement worked in Africa for commercial interests and latterly in the service of Britain. However, the Boer War and his investigation into atrocities in the Congo led Casement to anti-Imperialist and ultimately Irish Republican and separatist political opinions.

For his role in the Easter

Rising, Casement was tried and convicted of treason after a slanted reading of the medieval British treason law, and executed on August 3, 1916.

