

# THE CRESCENT HARP

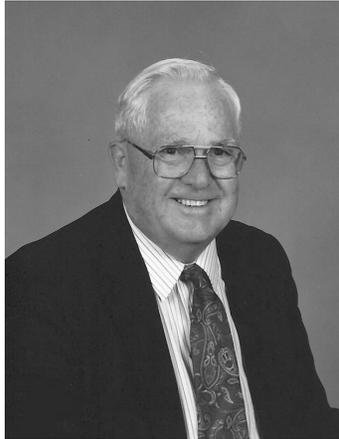
THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN LOUISIANA

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH—MAY, 2010

## IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR

The Louisiana State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Philip M. Hannan, Cardinal Gibbons, Acadian, and Republic of West Florida Divisions proudly announce Joseph James Cronin Sr. as Irishman of the Year for 2010. A retired longshoreman and veteran of the New Orleans Police Department, Brother Cronin was born in New Orleans in 1924, the son of the late Michael R. Cronin and Alice McMullen Cronin. A native of the Irish Channel, he attended Redemptorist School and is a 1943 graduate of St. Aloysius High School where he was named second team All-Prep as a member of the football team. Cronin then went on to serve during the Second World War for the United States



Navy Seabees from 1943-46.

Upon his return from the war, Cronin joined the Clerks Local Longshoreman's Union Number 1497 and then graduated from the New Orleans Police Academy in 1946 where he served both as a patrolman and as a special member of the

Federal Narcotics Enforcement taskforce. Upon his retirement from the Police Department, he has continued to serve on the board of the Police Federal Credit Union. Cronin is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6640 and American Legion Post 267. He is a parishioner at St. Benilde Church in Metairie where he was recently honoured as a senior great-grandfather.

Cronin was married to the late Hilda Conzonire Cronin from 1942 to 1960 and is currently married to the former Judy Whitney since 1963. He is the father of six children, twelve grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## YOUR NEW NEWSLETTER

Brother Hibernians,

After a unanimous vote of the membership of the Order, the State Board of the AOH in Louisiana has adopted *The Crescent Harp* as its official newsletter for all future events, activities, and notices.

In addition to being the news organ of the AOH in Louisiana, it is our intention that *The Crescent Harp* serve as a conduit through which the entire Irish community can learn of news and events throughout this area of the country.

We want this newsletter to

serve as an arm of the AOH in heightening your awareness of your Irish Catholic heritage, but that is in large part contingent on *your* participation as well. We need you help, brothers, in finding stories of interest to the Irish community and to the Brotherhood.

Thus, please feel free to contact your division and state recording secretaries or this newsletter directly to inform them of whatever news you have. Send us pictures of yourself and your loved ones and your friends at all Irish functions. Make

sure we know of all events that involve the Irish.

Last but not least, please help us underwrite the cost of this newsletter. Tell all businesses who serve and promote the Irish and all things Irish that they should be placing their ads in this newsletter.

Since the last AOH National Convention in New Orleans, the Irish in the South have commanded the attention of the National Board and the brotherhood throughout the nation. *The Crescent Harp* is just one more step in the continuing growth of our Ancient Or-



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Louisiana State Board of  
the Ancient Order of Hibernians

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Irish Channel  
St. Patrick's Day  
Mass and Parade  
SATURDAY, MARCH 13  
12 noon  
St. Mary's Assumption  
Church**

**Solemn Mass for the Feast of  
St. Patrick  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17  
St. Patrick Church  
New Orleans  
11:30 a.m.**

**Annual St. Patrick's Day  
Banquet  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17  
Sheraton Hotel  
New Orleans  
6:30 p.m.**

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## President's Message

Dennis Quinn,  
Cardinal Gibbons Division

*Brother Hibernians,*

“Do what is  
beyond your  
strength even  
should you fail  
sometimes.”

*Charles Stewart  
Parnell — 1885*

## Chaplain's Message

*Fr. Patrick Collum, State Chaplain*

Friends in Christ,

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a tremendous Catholic organization in the way it serves the Church and the entire community. The thousands of Irish immigrants that moved to the United States, especially after the Great Hunger of 1845-49, were Catholic and looking for a way to serve or support their community. Thus, our Ancient Order came into being.

Today, many Catholics of Irish descent, both men and women, serve in the AOH and the LAOH. The structure is fairly similar to another great Catholic organization, the Knights of Columbus.

I became a Chaplain to the Order back in March 2002, and I have been impressed with the good work of the Order. I am grateful for the service they have given and continue to give our community.

The passing of Fr. Desmond Crotty in the Spring of 2007 was a sad and somber event for our local divisions and for the Order in general. Des had served as State Chaplain for many years, and we continue to miss him. I am grateful and honored to have been asked to

serve as State Chaplain following Fr. Des.

In my homilies at Annunciation Church in Bogalusa, I continually challenge my congregation to give more of their time, talent, and treasure in the service of the Lord and one another. My message is the same for the Hibernians. There are many needs in our community that still need our attention, and we are called by the Lord to serve those needs. To be true disciples, to continually strive to serve others, and not be self-serving is the call to discipleship given to us by our Lord. The AOH gives us that opportunity to do our part in the ministry of the Lord.

I encourage the Hibernians to keep up the good work in their unique ministry to the community, to continually address the growing and varying needs of the Church, and to continually strive to be the true disciples that the Lord calls us to be.

Again, I feel very blessed to be a part of this ancient order and the great work and ministry it does in the service of the Lord and one another.

## DIVISION NEWS

### HANNAN AND GIBBONS DIVISIONS

The Archbishop Hannan and Cardinal Gibbons Divisions installed their division officers at their joint meeting on October 15, 2009. Officers installed will serve until the 2011 State Convention.

#### HANNAN DIVISION

John D. Fitzmorris Jr. - President  
 Lance C. Uhde IV - Vice-President  
 Hon. Mark Shea - Financial Sec'y  
 John T. Browne - Treasurer  
 Michael Boyle - Recording Sec'y  
 Very Rev. Neal McDermott, O.P.  
 - Chaplain

#### GIBBONS DIVISION

Dennis Quinn - President  
 Gary P. McCarthy - Vice-President  
 Thomas O'Brien - Financial Sec'y  
 Steve Murphy - Treasurer  
 Sean Burke - Recording Sec'y  
 Rev. William O'Riordan - Chaplain

The Archbishop Hannan Division of the AOH hosted the first AOH Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at St. Dominic Church and Siena Room. More than thirty Hibernians and their families braved the elements and put on an impressive show of

Hibernian brotherhood and faith.

After Mass, the AOH gathered in the Siena Room for coffee, doughnuts, and juice to meet and greet interested parishioners and answer questions about Hibernianism.

The Cardinal Gibbons Division will host the next AOH Mass and Breakfast will be in the Spring with a date and parish to be announced.

#### ACADIAN DIVISION

The Acadian Division of the AOH will host its Annual Crawfish Boil on **Saturday, March 27, 2010**, at Our Lady of Fatima Knights of Columbus Hall in Lafayette. Tickets are available through AOH Acadian Division President Mark Foley.

#### POSSIBLE NEW DIVISION FOR BATON ROUGE

A contingent of AOH members will travel to Baton Rouge on Thursday, November 10 to discuss with members of the Baton Rouge Community about starting an AOH Division for the State Capital. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center, 222 Government Street, starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be a brief presentation by members of the State Board followed by a question and answer session. Those of

you who know of interested men in the Baton Rouge Area are encouraged to let them know and/or have them contact **Mike Schroeder** at 225-555-1212 or [LMSCHROE@charter.net](mailto:LMSCHROE@charter.net).

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

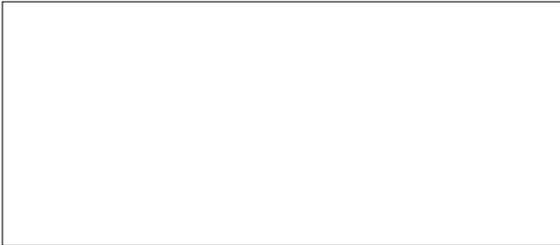
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**B.J. ECKHOLDT** - TREASURER  
**JOHN P. MCMENAMIN** - RECORDING  
SECRETARY



## AOH UNVEILS DIVISION BANNERS

To present an even better image to the community, the State Board of the AOH commissioned a banner representing each division in the state of Louisiana. The banners, officially called "gonfalons," represent the city and/or region encompassed by each division.

The Archbishop Hannan Division, the first division of the newly reconstituted AOH in 1988 covers the city of New Orleans and the Parish of Orleans. Thus, its banner contains the flag of the City of New Orleans. The Cardinal Gibbons Division banner holds the flag of Jefferson Parish as it covers the entire Parish of Jefferson and the Metro area outside of New Orleans.

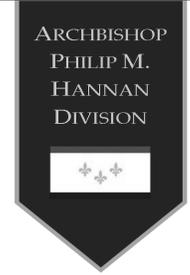
Outside of the New Orleans Metro Area, our division in Tangipahoa recognizes the brief

but significant Republic of West Florida with the "Bonnie Blue Flag" that flew over the Florida Parishes briefly in 1810 prior to American annexation.

Last but not least, the Acadian Division banner hearkens back to the unique relationship of the Acadians and the Irish as people often oppressed and forced into exile. Thus, its banner contains the Acadian flag.

The banners will be used at all AOH Division meetings, carried into church for each Mass, and carried during parades.

Our thanks go out to the Pennant Shop in Metairie for the fine craftsmanship with which they made our gonfalons as well as our meeting table cover.



## HISTORICAL MOMENT—"GARRYOWEN"

Each St. Patrick's Day, the men of the AOH make an emotional and stirring march into the grand ballroom to the music of the United States Marine Corps. The hymn to which we march is called "Garryowen," and we have heard that tune many times.

The origins of Garryowen are unclear, but it emerged in late eighteenth century Limerick. It obtained immediate popularity in the British Army and became the regimental march of the Royal Irish Regiment, the Irish Regiment of Canada, the Liverpool Irish, and the London Irish Rifles.

Garryowen was also a favorite in the Crimean War, but it achieved fame in America when the famous 69th New York Infantry Regiment "the Fighting 69th" adopted

"Garryowen" before the Civil War.

It later became the marching tune for the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment during the late 1800s. The tune was a favorite of General George Armstrong Custer and became the official tune of the regiment in 1867. According to legend it was the last tune played before the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The "Fighting 69th" adopted Garry Owen before the Civil War and recently brought it back to combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom while the 7th U.S. Cavalry (now a part of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division) played the tune when they were the first to enter Baghdad.

The word *garryowen* is derived from the Irish, the proper name *Eóghan* ("born of the yew tree") and the word for garden *garrai* -

thus "Eóghan's Garden". The term refers to an area of the town of Limerick, Ireland.

The song has made many an appearance in film, most notably John Wayne westerns, *They Died with Their Boots On* with Errol Flynn, *The Last Samurai* with Tom Cruise, *The Long Gray Line* with Tyrone Power, *Night at the Museum*, and *The Fighting 69th* with James Cagney and Pat O'Brien.

So when we march into the ballroom in 2010, let us remember the words of our tune and help out with the chorus:

*Instead of spa, we'll drink brown ale  
And pay the reckoning on the nail;  
No man for debt shall go to jail  
From Garryowen in glory.*