

THE CRESCENT HARP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

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THE "BIG AX" BECOMES OUR FIRST LIFETIME MEMBER

The Louisiana State Board of the AOH has unanimously conferred upon Brother Axel Stromboe the first Lifetime Hibernian Membership. Stromboe, 70, has been a member of the AOH since its rechartering in 1988. Through his generosity, Brother Stromboe hosted the AOH free of charge for several years and frequently provided his culinary skills for the AOH at several National Conventions. He definitely has merited his Lifetime Status, and the AOH in Louisiana (and throughout the nation) salute the "Big Ax" on this special honor.



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Our website is under restoration, but you can access the AOH on Facebook
Louisiana State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

AOH RAFFLE A HUGE SUCCESS

The Archbishop Hannan and Cardinal Gibbons Divisions of the AOH hosted their Annual \$10,000 Raffle Fundraiser on October 29 at the St. Dominic Gym. More than \$15,000 was raised for the various AOH Charities.

The evening's entertainment featured Thomas

O'Carroll, a leading balladeer who flew in from Dublin at the last moment when Eugene Byrne, originally scheduled as the evening's entertainment, fell ill and was hospitalized.

O'Carroll's music and humour highlighted a Samhain night of Irish entertainment and fellowship. Raffle participants feasted on a dinner of potato and leek soup, shepherd's pie, Irish soda bread, and enjoyed a well-stocked bar courtesy of numerous donations from local vendors.



AOH Brothers Steve Murphy, Raffle Chairman Joseph Casler, and Jeremy Hughes gather together for a photo at the Annual AOH Raffle and October Irish Festival. Br. Hughes is no doubt reacting the news that he did not win the \$10,000 grand prize.

Many thanks go out to the staff of St. Dominic for their generosity in hosting the event.

A concerted effort of all AOH Brothers led by Raffle Chairs Joseph Casler, Kenneth Farrell, John Kilburn, and Jim McKay ensured that all 300 tickets were sold for the first time since the Raffle was conceived more than a decade ago. Special thanks go out to Brother Farrell, who scrambled at the last minute to bring in Tommy O'Carroll after Eugene fell ill.

In the end, four ticket holders split the \$10,000 grand prize, and many went home with various gift certificates donated by generous sponsors.

Thanks go out to all who purchased tickets, but special thanks go to Brother Patrick Dorion, Brother Richard Graham

and Doors Pub and Pizza, Finn McCool's Irish Pub, the Bulldog and Lagers Pubs, Coca-Cola of New Orleans, Counterculture Frozen Yogurt, Cullen Stackpole and the Hampton Inn Metairie, Guinness Beer, Brother Lance Uhde and Art-in-Flowers, Pete's Out in the Cold Bar, Rock-n-Sake Café, the Steakknife Restaurant, and Brother Paul Sens for underwriting the cost of the tickets.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AOH Joint Meeting with the LAOH and Christmas Party
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16
7:00 p.m.
ST. DOMINIC GYM

HANNAN and GIBBONS DIVISIONS MEETINGS
January 20, 2011
February 24, 2011
March 17, 2011
May 19, 2011

Republic of West Florida Meeting
TBA

Acadian Division Meeting
TBA

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"The immigrant's heart marches to the beat of two quite different drums, one from the old homeland and the other from the new. The immigrant has to bridge these two worlds, living comfortably in the new and bringing the best of his or her ancient identity and heritage to bear on life in an adopted homeland."
- Irish President McAleese

SPECIAL MESSAGE REGARDING ARCHBISHOP HANNAN

Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, our spiritual leader in New Orleans from 1965 through 1988, and the namesake of our New Orleans Hibernian Division, is currently suffering from a major bronchial infection and is under a doctor's care.

Born in 1913, Philip Matthew Hannan grew up in Washington, D.C., the son of P. F. Hannan, an Irish immigrant and Lillian Keefe, a native of Washington. He attended St. Charles College in Catonsville, Maryland, the Sulpician Seminary, and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. His high school years were spent at St. John's College High School in northwest Washington, D.C. He was a seminarian at the Old North American College in Rome from 1936 to 1939, where he personally witnessed the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany. He would later write a biographical account, *Rome: Living under the Axis*, detailing his experiences in Rome.

Hannan was ordained on December 8, 1939, and returned to the United States as an assistant priest at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Baltimore, Maryland. He then enlisted in the United States Army, served as chaplain to the 82nd Airborne Division, and parachuted into Europe with the rest of the division. He ministered to the paratroopers during the Ardennes Offensive, was with American soldiers during the liberation of a concentration camp, and briefly served as pastor of the Cologne Cathedral during the American occupation of Germany.

Hannan returned home and served as administrator in the Baltimore-Washington Archdiocese until the Archdiocese of Washington was split from Baltimore on November 15, 1947. He was given the title Monsignor in 1952 and became Auxiliary Bishop of the Washington Archdiocese on June 16, 1956. As auxiliary bishop of Washington, he became acquainted with several prominent politicians, especially the Kennedy family and gave the homily at President John Kennedy's state funeral.

Hannan was part of the U.S. delegation to the Second Vatican Council in 1965, where he served as a press officer and was then appointed as the eleventh Archbishop of New Orleans on September 29, 1965, only weeks after Hurricane Betsy hit the city. He became a spiritual leader during the rebuilding of both the city and the archdiocese. One of the more poignant

pictures from that time was that of the newly appointed archbishop touring flooded areas in a boat.

In 1966, the National Football League approached Hannan with the hope that he would tolerate their choice of the name "Saints" for the new NFL franchise. Not only did he tolerate it, but he endorsed it wholeheartedly as a symbol of the great Catholic faith of New Orleans and devised the first prayer for the franchise that became a yearly tradition for the Saints' kickoff.

As archbishop, Hannan led the effort to implement Vatican II's policies of reform, advocated civil rights, and was a staunch opponent of Communism. He joined with several moderate bishops to oppose the May 3, 1983 pastoral letter of the NCCB/USCC, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response", which came out strongly against the notion of deterrence and advocated a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union.

Hannan's signature achievement was the Pastoral Visit of Pope John Paul II to New Orleans from September 11 to 13,



Retired Archbishop Philip M. Hannan stands with 2007 Irishman of the Year Judge Dennis Waldron in front of St. Patrick's Church on March 17. Archbishop Hannan was recently afflicted with a severe bronchial infection.

1987, the first ever Papal Visit to the city. The Archbishop was the Pontiff's personal guide throughout his three day tour of the city, and the Pontiff slept in the same bed in which Hannan and all his siblings were born.

When he retired on December 6, 1988, he had completed over twenty years of service to New Orleans and was popular among Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and other faiths in the area.

In 1996, Hannan was awarded the *Pacem in Terris* Award. It was named after a 1963 encyclical letter by Pope John XXIII that calls upon all people of good will to secure peace among all nations.

At the age of 92, he was still in the news when it was revealed that, during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he courageously remained and would not leave a studio in a Catholic television station he had founded in Metairie, in order to protect it from looters.

Current Archbishop Gregory Aymond acknowledged that Archbishop Hannan has rallied from serious health conditions before but asked for prayers for his health. The Hibernians join with Archbishop Aymond in offering their prayers for the health of Archbishop Hannan, an extraordinary man of faith and leadership.

AOH NEWS HERE AND AROUND

AOH INITIATION IN TANGIPAHOA

On Thursday, September 30th the Ritual Committee consisting of Brothers John Fitzmorris III, Todd Lannan, Jim Moriarty, and Lance Uhde traveled to Ponchatoula and visited our brothers of the West Florida Division. There, we were honored to induct Jim Linn, William Moran, and Robert Walsh into the Ancient Order.

Jude James Kuhn and President Martin Kearney and the brothers of the West Florida Division greeted us with a warm reception hosted at Brother Kuhn's home in Ponchatoula.



Republic of West Florida Division Members stand behind their newly initiated members. (Front row, from left to right) Jim Linn, William Moran, Robert Walsh. (Rear, from left to right) President Martin Kearney, Henry Letellier, Chris O'Connor, Don Steadman, Judge James

The Ritual Committee executed the Shamrock Degree flawlessly, and the ceremony went off without a hitch. After our business at hand, family members then joined in a celebration of delicious food, terrific beverages and—last but not least—excellent company. It was truly an enjoyable night for all in attendance.

The brothers of West Florida did an outstanding job as our hosts.

In closing, on behalf of the Ritual Committee, we would like to welcome Brothers Linn, Moran, and Walsh to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Congratulations to you all.

- Br. Todd Lannan

ACADIAN DIVISION CELTIC CHRISTMAS

On Sunday, December 12, the Acadian Division of the AOH hosted its Celtic Christmas fundraiser at the Cité de Arts in Lafayette. The afternoon entertainment featured Irish singer and storyteller Danny O'Flaherty. Accompanying



AOH Acadian Division member Ian Foley stands beside his banner as he awaits the patrons at the Celtic Christmas fundraiser.

Danny was Holly Marie Mergist who made her debut performance. Holly is a dedicated Irish dancer who learned to dance under the direction of Sheila Ryan-Davoren, founder and artistic director of the Ryan School of Irish Dance in Lafayette.

The Christmas program featured such songs as the Cornish "Holly Bears a Berry," the Scottish "Bonfire," the Welsh "Logs to Burn," and the Irish "The Wind at First Christmas," "The Road that Mary Trod," and the Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake."

All Celtic countries incorporated the Druid's respect for fire and sacred evergreens into their Christmas landscape. Revelry and good spirits were widespread, as was the merry custom of was-sailing. However, each of the nations developed their own special traditions:

- + The Irish and Manx hunted the Wren.
- + The Welsh followed the Gray Mare.
- + The Cornish developed their own evergreen Kissing Bush.
- + The Bretons anticipated the arrival of the Infant Jesus down their chimneys
- + The Scots awaited the First Footer (New Year) to determine their fortune.

In story and song, the light-hearted and moving *Celtic Christmas* tells the tale of the charming and unique Yuletide traditions that evolved over the centuries in the nations of the Celts. Fiery dances, mesmerizing songs and tantalizing stories rekindled the true Christmas spirit in a unique Hibernian tradition.

The next major fundraiser for the Acadian Division will be its Annual Crawfish Boil at the end of March.



*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

VETERANS COMMITTEE

As the Hibernians in New Orleans begin to gather the talents of their membership to work for the good of the Order and throughout the community at large, the Veterans Committee was among the first to meet and devise its goals and strategy.

Brothers Tom Connolly, Henry Flanagan, Alan Guthrie, and Tommy O'Brien met on December 9 for the first time as a group. The group unanimously elected Br. Connolly, who is a veteran of both the Vietnam War and Operation Gulf Storm as the Committee Chair.

The committee then set forth its goals: to identify all members of the AOH who are either active duty or retired veterans of the nation's Armed Forces. Secondly, the Committee wishes to identify all members who have children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, or even friends currently serving in the Armed Forces. To that end, the Committee will include

with the next mail out a form for all members to fill out with the required information.

The Committee also wishes to involve the Ancient Order in the veterans community here in the New Orleans Metro Area and beyond. A representative from the Louisiana State Department of Veterans Affairs will speak at the next committee meeting on January 6. In addition, the committee has also reached out to the Algiers Naval Base and its ranking NCO, Master Chief Mann. In the near future the committee will go before the Master Chief's Association to promote the AOH's involvement in the veterans community.

Also, the committee will be exploring the idea with the President and State Board of inviting both active and retired veterans to march with the Ancient Order in the Irish Channel Parade.

Finally, the committee will be organizing a drive to col-

lect items to be shipped to soldiers overseas courtesy of the Ancient Order. Beginning with the Christmas Meeting/Party on the 16th, the Order will be collecting cookies and candies—especially Snickers bars and the like—along with packages of Ramen noodles to be shipped to an Irish-born Army Chaplain currently serving in Afghanistan.

The Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and the Freedom of Religion are but two tenets of our American Society, and as Hibernians we are able to come together in peace and freedom to celebrate our ethnic heritage and Catholic faith. However, we could not do this but for the men and women of our nation's Armed Forces. As always, we ask that you all be extra generous on behalf of our military and always keep them in your prayers.

- Br. John Fitzmorris III

**"If you could
drink dreams
like the Irish
streams**

**Then the world
would be high
as the
mountain of
morn**

**In the Pool
they told us
the story**

**How the
English divided
the land..."**

**- John Lennon,
"The Luck of the
Irish"**

SPOTLIGHT ON A HIBERNIAN

Brought to New Orleans in the 1960s by Archbishop Hannan to serve as educators, the Sisters of the Presentation were faced with destitution when they discovered that they had no retirement funds. So the AOH was among several groups that came to the aid of the nuns in their time of need. However, the Sisters have taken a new approach to retirement and a local Hibernian has been coming

along for the ride. Brother Patrick Dorion has joined with Sr. Vera Butler and donated more than treasure. He also has donated his time and talent.

His efforts go to helping the nuns minister to the homeless and destitute population in away that maintains their dignity. Built in a former parking area behind St. Joseph's Church on Gravier Street, the Rebuild Center boasts

facilities where homeless individuals can shower, get a meal, do their laundry and get health care. In addition, the Pro-Bono Project hosts a Homeless Advocacy Clinic every Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Each Saturday, Dorion goes down to help prepare meals and assist in whatever way he can. A Past Man of the Year, Dorion has seen his grandson serve in Afghanistan and come home safely. He him-

OFFICER'S EDITORIAL

As your newly elected Interim State Recording Secretary I wanted to take a moment to comment about the AOH in Louisiana and the New Orleans area in particular. Many of you know I am from Western New York which makes me a true Yankee (a fact of which I am very proud), so often I am asked why I moved to New Orleans. I always have a good story to tell, but—truth be told—it involves a choice and my fiancé. Anyway, I have begun to embrace a new life in New Orleans; and though I joke about it, I have enjoyed my time here although I miss pizza, wings, family and friends. One of the things I was concerned with when choosing to move was losing my connection with the AOH. Then I learned of the local Division, and I was quite pleased.

After attending a couple of meetings, I quickly learned I, was in the presence of brothers. I come from a large family of 2 brothers and 6 sisters and we all embrace our Irish heritage but aside from a sister who is the Division Secretary for her LAOH, none quite the way I may do. I take great pride and honor in being a part of the AOH as I am sure most of you all do.

I do not know enough about the History or the Isle of Ireland but I know a thing or two about having a brotherhood of family where you watch out for one another, you pray, you laugh

HIBERNIAN COMBINES RETIREMENT AND CHARITY (cont. from page 4)

self is retired from Crescent Crown Distributors and frequently donates items to the fundraisers hosted by the AOH.

The last aspect of the motto of the Ancient Order is Christian Charity. Brother Dorion and the Sisters have certainly taken it to a new level.

WE NEED MORE INPUT!

Do you have news about individual Hibernians in the area? We NEED to know about them. In our next issue we shall begin a section for all those Hibernians who are new fathers, have family members that are in need of prayers, or are in need of prayers themselves. Remember that this newsletter is designed to bring home to you the news

and above all you unite in history and heritage. I often hear the comment I came from a “real” Division in New York and am always shocked to hear that. Having only attended my own division meetings for ten plus years, I never much got to or searched out other Divisions. My New York Division does things a bit differently, but they are no more “real” than my new Division.

All Divisions work off the same By-Laws. The meetings are different, and part of me wishes meetings were identical, but I know they are not. However, they are what they are, the same in principles and rituals. All Divisions have their own twist or version of how they carry out their meetings, and let me say that no one Division is better or less real than another. The AOH is Brotherhood, Friendship and Christian Charity. In the William J. Ryan Division # 4 in Lockport, NY we are united although they may or may not have done things that are done in NOLA- and vice versa.

I do not know all about Louisiana or who went to what high school and unfortunately who were the original soldiers and so forth. However, I am a Hibernian and it is my honor and privilege to be a member of your division and to be your Interim State Recording Secretary.

Slainté,
Jeremy Hughes



The Rebuild Center of New Orleans, located on Gravier Street behind St. Joseph Church, is a homeless advocacy shelter established by the Irish Sisters of the Presentation.

and information necessary to make the Hibernian experience more meaningful.

"Could he not find in his heart the generosity to acknowledge that there is a small nation that stood alone not for one year or two, but for several hundred years against aggression; that endured spoliations, famines, massacres in endless succession; that was clubbed many times into insensibility, but that each time on returning [to] consciousness took up the fight anew; a small nation that could never be got to accept defeat and has never surrendered her soul?"

- Eamon De Valera, on Victory Day in Europe, May 8, 1945, responding in a radio speech to criticism by Winston Churchill of Ireland's neutrality in World War II, a speech in which De Valera also thanked Churchill for not invading Ireland.

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HISTORICAL MOMENT

One might think it at the least highly irregular (and some, at the most, treasonous) to mention a member of the British royal family in the AOH Historical moment, but the current spate of slaving by the American entertainment media over the impending marriage of Prince William of Wales actually highlights an important piece of Irish history.

Of course, no piece of Irish history that involves the English and/or the royal family is rarely positive or uplifting. However, you humble historian has discovered that William Arthur Philip Louis of Wales is a direct descendant of the last Catholic king of England, James II (and VII of Scotland) through his maternal grandfather, John Spencer, the 8th Earl Spencer.

James II, the former Duke of York, abdicated during the Glorious Revolution of 1688 because the Protestants in Parliament revolted and asked James' son-in-law William of Orange ("King Billy") to assume the throne with James' daughter Mary. Parliament then passed a Bill of Rights and the Act of Succession, which stated that no Catholic could assume the throne of England.

James then fled England for the protection of France and his cousin, Louis XIV. However, James soon assembled an army (called the Jacobites) with the help of the French and targeted Ireland as the jumping off point for his reclamation of the English throne.

With the assistance of French troops,

James landed in Ireland in March 1689. The Irish Parliament did not follow the example of the English Parliament; it declared that James remained King and sent troops of its own. Meanwhile, William also landed in Ireland to subjugate the Isle to his and Parliament's authority.

On July 12, 1690, the two forces met outside the town of Drogheda along the River Boyne. William's forces defeated those of James who led an army of mostly raw recruits. James fled once again to France where he and his heirs still considered themselves the rightful heirs of England. For the Irish, who felt sold out by James and his family, the deposed king would forever be known by the moniker of *Seamus an Chaca* or "James the S--t."

The war came to an end outside of Limerick in 1691 when the new king negotiated a treaty with the Irish rebels on the bridge (known as Treaty Bridge) over the River Shannon. William offered generous terms to the Jacobite rebels willing to stay in Ireland and give an oath of loyalty to William III. He also offered toleration to Catholicism and full legal rights to Catholics that swore an oath of loyalty. However, the Protestant-dominated Irish Parliament refused to ratify the articles of the Treaty in 1697, and from 1695 on, updated the penal laws, which discriminated harshly against Catholics.

Catholics saw this as a severe breach of faith. A popular contemporary Irish saying was, *cuimhnigí Luimneach agus feall na*

Sassanaigh ("remember Limerick and Saxon treachery"). Part of the problem lay in that the new Pope, Innocent XII, threw his support to James and gave shelter to the exiles, further increasing Protestant oppression of Catholics in England.

Part of the treaty agreed to a demand that the Jacobite army could leave Ireland as a body and go to France. This event was popularly known in Ireland as the "Flight of the Wild Geese". Around 14,000 men with around 10,000 women and children left Ireland in 1691. Initially, they formed the army in exile of James II, though operating as part of the French army. After James' death, the remnants of this force merged into the French Irish Brigade, which had been set up in 1689 from 6000 Irish recruits sent by the Irish Jacobites in return for French military aid.

It also provides us with one of our popular Hibernian cheers, which really should be directed against the Protestant Irish Parliament than William of Orange:

*Up the tall ladder
And down the short rope.
To hell with King Billy
And long live the Pope!*

*And if that doesn't do,
Then we'll tear him two,
And send him to hell,
With his red, white, and blue!*