



The Dooley Dispatch

May 2019

Celebrating 40 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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Next Meeting – Tuesday May 14, 2019 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church



President's Message:

May already! I love how green everything looks at this time of year.

I want to congratulate our Division golfers. I was not able to go due to conflicting plans but heard all who went had a grand time in Myrtle Beach. Brothers Dan Caffrey, John Condon, Joe O'Brien, Brian Hegarty and Fred Gerloff made the trip down to join Pat Naughton - thanks to Pat for putting the trip together.

Congratulations to Fr. Dan Brady and Fr. Jim Arsenault, celebrating their 35th and 30th anniversaries of their ordinations in May.

Looking ahead, the Dooley Division is hosting the AOH/LAOH Virginia State quarterly meeting on June 8, 2019 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229 (9:30 am – 12:00 noon). Lunch will be served at 12 pm and the Major degree ceremony will follow at 12:30 pm. There are approximately 400 Virginia Hibernians who have not attained the Major Degree of the Order. Regardless of how long a member has held a membership card, he cannot be counted as a true Hibernian without attainment of the Major Degrees.

For upcoming social events we have the fishing trip on May 18 and a Squirrels game on June 14. Look for updates on other items such as the Ashland 4th of July Parade, we had a great turnout last year and the Division was well-received.

August 16-18 will see the AOH State Convention in Leesburg, VA. Let me know if you plan to attend as the Division has six delegate seats, and six alternates to fill. Check the state website for convention details.

Lots of other events coming up next few months, so check the Division website regularly for updates.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Steve McGann

Upcoming Events:

Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2019 at 7 pm every 2nd Tuesday of each Month, except for July and August, at St. Michael Catholic Church. 2019 Meeting Dates - 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10 (Officer Installation)

May 18 & 19, 2019 Sat/Sun - Fishing Trip to Chesapeake Bay, Spend Saturday afternoon/night in Sloop Creek Lodge, fish early Sunday morning; Captain Crabbe fish charter. Contact Daniel Caffrey at 804-512-6288 or kkcaffrey@hotmail.com

(TBC) 4th of July Picnic at Columbian Center (Family Event) with the KOC 4th Degree Assembly. Ashland Parade.

(TBD) June/July, 2019, at 6:35 pm (Irish Night?)– Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game Outing (Family), The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230 - (Tim McDonnell - Chair) (ph 804-678-9764).

August 16-18, 2019 - AOH State Convention in NOVA. Registration information to be sent out as soon as available.

(TBC) August 25, 2019, Sunday - Our Lady of Knock (8/21/1879) Mass at 11 am at St. Michael's Church? with Party at the McGann's afterward (late afternoon).

September 17, 2019, Tuesday at 5 pm – Happy Hour - Halfway to St. Patrick's Day at Rare Olde Times.

Celebrate 40th Anniversary

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List

For May 14, 2019 Meeting, as of 05/13/2019

Please let Daniel Caffrey know if you'd like to be the Chair of Sick Committee at kkcaffrey@hotmail.com

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From and since April Meeting (new):

- Steve McGann's sister, Patricia McGovern, passed away May 5th, after a long fight with leukemia.
- Jim Whelen, daughter Claire, had appendix removed.
- Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom, Norma Oakley, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago.
- Chad Costello's brother-in-law (Doug Dakins, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Meeting with a surgeon to determine a course of action.
- Brian Kiernan - Mom, Kay Kiernan. She passed away in her sleep on 4/13/2019. She was 93 years old.

- Brian Kiernan – recovering from a leg infection.
- Tim McDonnell, family friend Whitney Bush passed away.
- Pat McGowan, Uncle Bill Meranda, passed away.
- Tom Forbes, Lori wrist surgery.
- Jim Woods, cousin Tom Zorn passed away.
- Tim McDonnell's friend, Rob Northern – recurrence of cancer.
- Fr. Jim Arsenault's mom.
- Ed Gillikin – cancer surgery.
- Passing of Matt and Sean Costello's mom- Vivian.
- Prayers for Tom Nolan.
- Prayers for Tom Forbes.
- Mike Hanrahan, nephew Tom Edens' heart transplant.
- Hugh Naughton – prayers for the passing of Jesuit Priest Matthew Creighton.
- Jim Woods – cousin Claire passed away – colon cancer at age 52. Uncle Philip cancer in jaw.
- Brian Kiernan – first cousin brother-in-law Jim, stage 3 cancer.
- Jim Donahue – passing of Fr. Kiernan Neilsen, former Benedictine Priest.

From and since February Meeting:

- Brother Jack Cassells (Past President, Historian, St. Patrick, Founding Member) had surgery on Aorta on 1/2/2019 to improve circulation. Surgery went well. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Fr. George Zahn - This year is 51 years as a Priest. Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Please contact Steve McGann (email below) if you'd like his phone number.
- John Mulligan, Jack Rowe, 18, 2nd kidney surgery.

From Prior Meetings:

- Billy Spicer's brother-in-law, William McCracken, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it. Also his heart is very weak. And he has emphysema as well. He's been doing better recently.
- Pat Saizan, sister of Larry Keefe, reoccurrence of breast cancer.
- Paulie McFadden's wife, Mary Ellen, back pains.
- Fred Gerloff – Jude Crouch leukemia, husband of cousin Cecelia.
- Gary McAuliffe's wife, Betty, macular hole in retina needs surgery.

From Prior Meetings:

- Don Lattanzi, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems. Out of hospital and back at rehab in Waverly. Keep in your prayers.
- Hugh Naughton's wife, Jessie, has lower back issues, Rosie Ramocki broke hand, Friend Dick Brennan – cancer.

Contact Daniel Caffrey at 804-512-6288 or at kkcaffrey@hotmail.com

Father Edward J. Flanagan – A Saint for all Children

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

Edward Joseph Flanagan was born in County Roscommon, Ireland on July 13, 1886. He was the eighth child in a family of eleven children. Since he was born premature, Flanagan was very frail at birth. It was reported that his parents were hard-working farmers, intelligent and very devoted to their religion. Father Flanagan wrote this about his home: “The old-fashioned home with its fireside companionship, its religious devotion and its closely-knit family ties is my idea of what a home should be. My father would tell me many stories that were interesting to a child --- stories of adventure, or the struggle of the Irish people for independence. It was from him I learned the great science of life, of examples from the lives of saints, scholars and patriots. It was from his life I first learned the fundamental rule of life of the great Saint Benedict, *prayer and work.*”

As Flanagan grew older, his father assigned him to take complete care of the sheep and cattle. His duty was to keep the animals from wandering into the dangerous peat bogs that bordered their property. This pastoral work gave him much time to think, to study, to read and to pray. In an April 1942 letter, Father Flanagan wrote: “You also may not know that I was a little shepherd boy who took care of the cattle and the sheep. That seemed to be my job as I was the delicate member of the family and good for nothing else, and with probably a poorer brain than most of the other members of the family. I was sent away to school to study for the Priesthood, because I wasn’t much good for anything else; so, my job as a shepherd boy filled in very nicely in preparation for my life’s work afterward.”

Edward Flanagan emigrated to the United States in 1904 and became a citizen in 1919. He attended Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906 and a Master of Arts degree in 1908. He studied at Saint Joseph’s Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York, continuing his studies in Italy and Austria where he was ordained a priest in 1912.

His first parish assignments were in Nebraska. After a devastating tornado which left many men homeless, Father Flannigan started the Workingman’s Hotel, which was a shelter for down-and-out workers and penniless men. His conversations with these men prompted him to write down notes on this man’s life and that one’s story. Over three years, he compiled notes and records on 1000’s of men and found that the causes for their troubles were almost always the same. Their boyhoods were all very similar. After many months of this, Father Flanagan began to realize that this hotel was only a temporary refuge. A stopping place for only a few days and weeks. He could not hope to do much of anything of lasting good for them. Those who could be placed in jobs had hope but the rest would wander through life from place to place. These men had developed bad habits, now deeply rooted, which would lead to useless lives. These men would reflect on their lives and say to Father Flannigan “It’s too late now Father”. Which made him wonder “What am I doing for them?” “How can I change them?” He had little hope of helping these men live well but he did have hope in helping abandoned boys, giving them the proper education, so they can live independent lives and accept the responsibility of citizenship. Father Flanagan believed shaping children’s behaviors and ideals at a young age was the only way to guide them towards productive adult lives. He did meet some resistance as people thought there was no hope for a bad kid. However, by his own words “I have yet to find a single boy who wants to be bad.”

So, after three years, he asked the Bishop if he could change his ministry and devote his time to help rehabilitate troubled young boys. He understood that mistreated or orphaned children were at high risk of turning to delinquency and to a life of crime. So, Father Flanagan borrowed \$90 from a friend and turned an Omaha boardinghouse into a residence for homeless and neglected boys. On December 12, 1917 he began with 5 boys, 3 from the court system and 2 from the streets. Within a year *The Home for Homeless Boys* enrollment soared and with that grew a need for more space. With financial assistance, Father Flannigan purchased Overlook Farm, just ten miles on the outskirts of Omaha and moved his Boys’ Home there. *Boys Town* grew to be a large community with its own boy-mayor, schools, chapel, post office, cottages, gymnasium, and other facilities where boys between the ages of 10 and 16 could receive an education and learn a trade. He encouraged every boy to pray; his famous quote was “Every boy should pray; how he prays is up to him.”

You might have heard “He ain’t heavy, Father...he’s m’ brother.” These iconic words have symbolized the spirit of *Boys Town* for decades. But many people don’t know how it originated. Back in 1918, a boy named Howard Loomis was abandoned by his mother at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys. Howard had polio and wore heavy braces. Walking was difficult for him especially when he had to go up and down the steps. Soon, several of the Home’s older boys were carrying Howard up and down the stairs. One day, Father Flannagan asked Reuben Granger if carrying Howard was hard. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father...he’s m’ brother.”

Father Flanagan and Boys Town became internationally known with the help of the 1938 movie, “Boys Town” starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney.

But, there was one country that was not very generous to him and you might be surprised by which one that is. Father Flannagan’s success in Nebraska gave him courage to address reform in the country of his birth where atrocities of the juvenile justice system were far greater than that of the United States. In 1946, he returned to Ireland and gave public speeches denouncing the church and state-run industrial schools calling them institutions of punishment. While the crowds cheered, the government not only publicly denounced Father Flanagan with criticism, they later expunged nearly all records of their native son.

Father Flanagan became an acknowledged expert in the field of child care, and toured the United States discussing his view on juvenile delinquency. After WWII, the federal government called on Father Flanagan to help children internationally as well. President Truman was so impressed with his report on orphaned children in Asia, he asked him to travel to Germany to help lay the groundwork for the care of tens of thousands of children orphaned by the war. It was during this arduous extended trek that Monsignor Edward Joseph Flanagan suffered a heart attack and passed away in Berlin on May 15, 1948 at age 61. Before he died, he said “Often it has been said that youth is the nation’s greatest asset. But it’s more than that—it is the world’s greatest asset. More than that, it is perhaps the world’s only hope.” Today, he is entombed in the *Boys Town* village to which he dedicated his life.

Father Flanagan pioneering efforts to save children from neglect, abuse, poverty, illiteracy and lawlessness are as relevant today as they were when he first began building the community which tens of thousands of boys, and now girls, call home. He became a social reformer and a true visionary for changing how America cared for its children and families, passionately speaking out and acting on social issues that few dared to address. He believed that children had the right to be valued, to have the necessities of life and be protected. Father Flannagan’s life mission should be an inspiration and a model to all people, including priests, as a guardian angel to boys and a protector of children.

Based on his good works and ministry as a protector of children, an official cause to a path to sainthood and the canonization of Father Flanagan has been underway since 2015. It is most fitting and proper that the Catholic Church pay homage to this great man.

To order green jackets and sashes, click on the picture:



Major Announcement!

Brothers, if you have not received the Major degree, now is the perfect opportunity to fulfill the oath of “Receiving the Lessons of the Orders” you took when you joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Major Degree team will be holding the degree at the next State Board Quarterly meeting being held on Saturday June 8, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church. The degree starts at 12:00 pm and lasts till approximately 2:30. Let’s try to beat the Dooley Division record of 35 members taking the degree back in the Spring of 2010 when the degree was held at St. Mary’s.

2nd Annual AOH Golf Trip to Brunswick, NC

For a second year in a row, members of the Dooley Division migrated South to Brunswick, NC for the 2nd annual golf trip arranged by Brother & NC resident Pat Naughton.



Left to Right: John Condon, Daniel Caffrey, Jack Nicklaus, Fred Gerloff, Joe O'Brien, Brian Hegarty, Pat Naughton. Noticeably absent from the picture this year is “Ally” Gator. A great time was had by all. Join us next year!

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
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«City», «State» «Zip»

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