

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

March 2020

Celebrating 41 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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[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday March 10, 2020 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church



President's Message:

From my days as a student reading Shakespeare I remember the phrase "The Ides of March are upon us." It was a reference to the ancient Roman calendar with the Ides indicating the middle day of the month which became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar. In the earliest exploration and mapping of Europe the Romans using Latin identified Ireland as Hibernia. For modern day Hibernians and all Irish, March is our most important month for less notorious reasons. March 17, of course, marks the Feast Day of Saint Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland and much of our cultural and religious activity as Hibernians centers on this month.

We are well into a busy month of activities, events and entertainment, the most important of which is the Feast Day Mass of Saint Patrick that we attend annually at Saint Patrick's Church in Church Hill which will be held at 9 AM. If you can take time away from work I encourage all to attend and focus some time on Saint Patrick's Feast Day in this beautiful, traditional church.

We have concluded raffle sales in our Parishes with a successful weekend at Saint Mary's and are in the homestretch of the raffle selling season. 25% of all raffle sales which began last October are made over the two days of the Irish Festival. The long range forecast for March 21-22 is good with low chance of rain which should bring the crowds and plenty of opportunity to offer the chance at a "Trip for Two to Ireland." Please make an effort to join us at the Festival. Brother Stokes McCune always sees to it that we have the prime real estate for our booth near the corner of Broad Street and 25th. As Hibernians we are the stars of the show as everyone who attends the Festival wishes they had a bit of Irish in them. That is exactly what we proudly represent every time we put on our jackets, sash, green caps and name tags.

In addition, there are other excellent opportunities to celebrate and honor our heritage this month. The LAOH Gala at Saint Michael's on the 13th, Irish night at Saint Mary's on the 14th and the St. Patrick's Day Mass and the JP Carroll Memorial breakfast immediately following amongst them.

Beyond the busy Irish month of March we have many more opportunities for fun, fellowship and Brotherhood. Looking past that the 2021 AOH state convention to be held in Richmond is not too far off to begin planning. I will be developing a committee to manage that planning and would like anyone interested in taking on a role to plan and run that meeting, to reach out to me or Vice President Larry Keefe.

In the meantime, enjoy your month of celebrating our Irish American and Catholic heritage. Respectfully resist attempts to denigrate or trivialize that heritage. Lift a Pint with your Brothers while being smart and staying safe on the roads. I'm looking forward to the celebration.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Mike Canning

Upcoming Events:

Dooley Division Business Meetings in 2020 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)**

March 13, 2020, Friday; Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 6:30pm. LAOH Irish Gala at St. Michael's Catholic Church Tickets- \$20 each. Dinner, (Donnybrooks). For tickets contact Karen Yesolitis kpy225@aol.com.
March 14, 2020, Saturday at 6:30 at St. Mary's Church, Irish Night (hosted by KofC 14129)

March 17, 2020, Tuesday- St. Patrick's Day Mass at 9 am – Mass at St. Patrick's Church, 213 North 25th Street, Richmond, VA 23223, JP Carroll Memorial Breakfast to Follow; 11:00 am – Rosie Connolly's Pub; Pub Crawl.

March 21 and 22, 2020 – 35th Church Hill Irish Festival – Street Festival in front of St. Patrick's Church on North 25th Street and on Broad Street and will run from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers needed for Festival set-up, Festival Gate (8-7; 8-6), selling Raffle tickets & recruiting new members at Booth.

March 21st, Saturday – St. Patrick's Day Parade at 10 am–<http://www.churchhillirishfestival.com/>

March 22nd, Sunday – recruit & sell Dooley Raffle tickets– Annual Raffle Drawing at the end of day. (5:30 pm)

June 12, Friday – Flying Squirrels Game. Dooley Division Annual night at the ballpark. Contact Tim McDonnell for tickets. Tmc1918@verizon.net 804.678.9764

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For March 10, 2020 Meeting

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 Previous meeting and since then:

- **Barbara Laroza** – Aunt of Tom Nolan
- **Siobaha Rooney** – Relative of Jack Griffin - Diagnosed with lung cancer

From Prior Meetings:

- **Brian Kiernan** – Skin Cancer being treated on February 13. Having hip replacement on April 6.
- **Stokes McCune** – Had triple bypass heart surgery and is recovering. (Will need more help at the Irish Festival.)
- **Tom Forbes** – Diagnosed with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Due for more medical treatments.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of Jack Cassells) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery
- Mark Atchinson – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- **Fr. George Zahn** - Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Weak. Is now at Our Lady of Hope.
- Chad Costello's brother-in-law (**Doug Dakins**, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Doc removed a large stage 3 tumor and is confident he got the margins and will be fine after chemo

- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains
- Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom, **Norma Oakley**, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago, cancer in spleen/lungs, in hospice care
- Hugh Naughton's wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- Tim McDonnell's friend, **Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer
- 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. It is now in remission
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

February 2020

Saint Brigid "The Mary of the Gael"

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

This is a story about Saint Brigid, the goddess of fire. What's important to know about St. Brigid is she came from a time which is prewritten history in Ireland. Because of this, unlike St. Patrick, very little is known about St. Bridget. Patrick wrote a letter of excommunication against the soldiers of Coroticus, and he wrote a confession referring to events during his life for the people he was leaving behind. So, we have a link with the person – his thoughts – his actual words. When it comes to Brigid, we have mythology. We have very little information about the life of Brigid except what we get from biographies written about her in the 7th century. We do know that she was one of the first saints that was not a martyr. Before her women saints were put to death for their faith.

Once upon a time.....The year was 450AD, after the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire, Irish raiders would kidnap people from across the Irish sea and bring them back as slaves. One such slave women had been bought by a young pagan chieftain called Dubhtach. Being a chieftain of Leinster, Dubhtach held a lot of power and instantly took an interest in this slave women. Despite being married he started a relationship with her, and she conceived a baby girl and named her after one of the most powerful goddesses of the pagan religion, Brigid (pronounced Brig-id).

From an early age it was clear that Brigid had a special devotion to God, and as she grew so did that devotion. Brigid had been elevated out of slavery and enjoyed what were called the "privileges of family." She was now a free woman and being a free woman meant she was now part of her father's clan and eligible for marriage to one of the other clansmen. They began to seek her out as she was known for her beauty, but she consecrated herself to Christ and wanted no part of marriage. This was a decision that angered her father as it would have impeded the growth of his kingdom. Despite her father's objections she entered a convent at an early age and became a nun. Soon after this, around the age of 16 or 17 she left home to travel the country looking after the sick, poor and outcast. She roamed the land looking for people to help. She is said to visit every house to make sure the people had plenty of food to eat, the crops would be planted, and the cattle would be safe so the cows would deliver plenty of milk. Because of this generosity and her care towards livestock and animals that Brigid became synonymous with the seasons and farming. She was very much a spiritual leader, down to earth – a women of the land. Her outreach to the poor is legendary.

Brigid had a very powerful personality. The town of Kildare is regarded as the true home of St. Brigid. Legend has it that she convinced a local chieftain to give her land, so one night she took the chieftain to the spot of land she wanted and the chieftain being a conceited man made a deal with her. He said take the cloak off your back and whatever area it covers you may have that land for your monastery. Brigid had great faith in God, so she took off her cloak and it unrolled and unrolled, acres unending and she got her site for the monastery. Within 100 years of her death, Kildare was described as a monastic city and its importance is attributed to Brigid.

The true story of Brigid's conversion to Christianity is lost in legend. One story states that it was Patrick himself who converted and baptized the women; another has the influence of her Christian mother weighing heavy on the girl. Regardless, Brigid and her fellow virgins all converted and became the first community of Christian women in Ireland. They were the first order of nuns in the country, the first group in a long line of Irish women who dedicated themselves to Christ. She founded two monastic institutions: one for men and one for women. She invited a hermit that lived in the next village to help her run the main section of the monastery and they worked this in collaboration with the sisters. As time went on so did her monastery, attracting girls from all over the country. Brigid's status as a leader was now solidified.

In 1814, some workers in Lismore Castle in County Waterford uncovered a damaged manuscript that became known as *The Book of Lismore*. The book contained *The Life of Saints* written sometime in the sixteenth century; yet the section of Brigid seems to have been taken from the works written in the seventh and tenth centuries. The Life of Brigid is not really a life at all but a catalog of the miraculous occurrences that surround her name.

We are told she was a peacemaker and was asked to intervene in local feuds which were commonplace at the time – she was titled a woman who turned back the stream of war. She and St. Patrick paved the way for Catholicism and Christianity throughout Ireland. St. Brigid probably didn't realize it at the time because she thought she was just doing the Lord's work, but she gave faith to the local communities.

There are stories that Brigid was good friends with Patrick that they had just one heart and mind and that through them Christ performed many great works. The meetings with Patrick would have had great effect on Brigid and she would carry his message throughout the country.

There are hundreds of wells dedicated to St. Brigid across Ireland. Not only do holy wells adorn every part of the country in St. Brigid's name but places themselves are also named after her – more than St. Patrick or any other saint. The St. Brigid name eclipses Patrick in townlands and parishes and there is probably more tradition associated with Brigid than with Patrick.

Here in the United States, we watch with bated breath to see if the beloved groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, will predict an early end to winter on February 2. The feast day in Ireland devoted to St. Brigid is February 1 and is associated with the beginning of new growth and the coming of spring. The familiar St. Brigid cross was woven by her while she prayed for a man waiting to die – before he passed into the next world.

So great was her name, so exemplary her reputation, and so admired her character, that nobleman, gentleman, and knights took to calling their own loved ones by her name – Bride. It is from this usage that we get the term used to describe a woman who is to be married. An honor for a woman who was never married except symbolically to Christ.

Although she died 1500 years ago, St. Brigid still lives in the hearts and minds of the people of Ireland.

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





The Dooley Division and LAOH Mary Ryan Division of Richmond hosted a luncheon for Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall on Sunday March 1, 2020. The luncheon was held at Poe's Pub in Richmond.

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

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MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

