



Ladies AOH

Division 5, "Mary of the Gael"

Division Happenings



Volume II, Issue 6, Division 5, Orange County, NY, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians September 2010

President

Gail Edmonds

Editor

Gail Cane

Upcoming Events

Sept. 24

LAOH Div. 5
Meeting, 8 pm
AOH Hall

Oct. 1

"Bunco Night"
Monroe Irish
Center
Doors open 7 pm
Games begin 7:30

Oct. 3

Irish Stew/Soda
Bread Contest,
2 pm,

Oct. 10

AOH Div. 1
"Holy
Communion
Breakfast"
Monroe Irish
Center

Nov. 5

Healing Mass
St. John the
Evangelist

Ongoing Events

**Traditional Irish
Seisun,**
Sunday afternoons
at the Hall

Irish Set Dancing
Lessons every
Monday, 7-9 pm,
Div. 1 AOH Hall

A Message from the President...

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a great summer and is well rested. We have jumped right into September - back to school, kids' activities, busy schedules, LAOH meetings.... once again. We have just passed the 9th Anniversary of September 11th, may we never forget that tragic day. September finds some exciting events taking place in our Catholic lives. The Pope just visited Britain, an historic event. Pope Benedict XVI was greeted by 60,000 followers for an outdoor Mass in Glasgow, how great. In a time that secularization is trying to grip us all, we must remain faithful. Not as easy as it sounds, but if we listen to Pope Benedict, it may help, "There are some who now seek to exclude religious belief from public discourse, to privatize it or even to paint it as a threat to equality and liberty. Yet religion is in fact a guarantee of authentic liberty and respect, leading us to look upon every person as a brother or sister." Religion – a guarantee of liberty and respect, simple and true, and yet so many people today demand liberty and respect while turning away from their religion. Without faith, we have nothing.

Mother Teresa would have turned 100 (Aug. 26), let us remember her in our prayers. Imagine the world with more people such as Mother Teresa.

As the Year of the Priest ends, I have heard that the Year of Marriage is now being declared by the Pope. I have yet to see any information on this, but maybe we can take the lead and examine our marriages and see what we can all do to make our partnerships stronger. Not all get to share in the Sacrament of Marriage.

I would like to thank the Dinner for Priests Committee who worked so hard on our dinner for Priests in Orange County, which was held this past Friday night. The dinner was grand, attended by approximately 20 Priests who got a chance to sit, relax and chat. We served those who serve us every day. A special Thank you to our Chair, Tommy Flynn. The night was brilliant, and the committee exemplified the Hibernian motto perfectly. We hope to make this an annual event.

September brings us halfway to St. Patrick's Day – we just held our 2nd annual Halfway party – thank you to all who came out for this fun night, to all volunteers, to the Pipe Band and to all the seisun musicians. Next year we may bump things up a notch and really get into Halfway mode.

Our Catholic Action Chair, Lorraine O'Dowd, has organized a Healing Mass for us at St. John's in Goshen on November 5. Whether it be an illness, stress, spiritual healing...this Mass may aid us all in whatever healing we need. After the Mass, we would like to head over to Logan's Well to enjoy a meal in each other's company.

As always, please feel free to offer suggestions on how to make things even better for our Division. Please try to bring new worthy candidates to our group.

May we remember Joan O'Brien, RIP, our National Right to Life Chair, who recently passed away. Joan came to our Lady of Knock Mass in 2009 with Mary Ryan- larger than life- and will be dearly missed.

See you all at the meeting, September 24, 8 pm.

Yours in our motto,

Gail Edmonds, President, Division 5, Mary of the Gael

LAOH DIVISION 5 Good and Welfare

~ Our friend, Joan O'Brien, the former National Right-to-Life chair, passed away on Sept. 4, after a long battle with cancer. We were honored to have Joanie attend the Div. 5-sponsored celebration of Our Lady of Knock in August 2009, along with National President Mary Ryan. At the dinner held in their honor, it was evident of her dedication to the rights of the unborn. May the Lord welcome her into His kingdom and may her soul be at peace.

Irish Stew/Soda Bread Cookoff Sunday, October 3

Get your aprons ready! So you think you have the best recipe for Irish Stew or Soda Bread? Put your talents to work in this competition that will be held at the Monroe Irish Center. Entries are due by 2 pm (no exceptions). Include index card with type of stew, name on back of card; entrants will keep food warm (crock pots, etc.); 2 prizes will be awarded; one for best stew and one for best soda bread. Prizes are a \$25 gift certificate to Logan's Well.



"BUNCO NIGHT"

Please join us for Ladies Game Night at the Monroe Irish Center, on Friday, October 1. Doors open at 7 pm; games begin at 7:30 pm. "Bunco" and "Left, Right, Center", games easy to learn, will be played, along with raffles and door prizes. Bring some friends. The cost to play is \$20, which will include light fare, along with a cash bar. All proceeds will benefit LAOH charities. Don't miss a great night of fun and games. Contact Kathleen Metcalf for tickets, at 914-262-7531.

AOH Division 1 "Holy Communion Breakfast"



Sunday, October 10
9 am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Monroe followed by an Irish breakfast at the Monroe Irish Center.

All are welcome.
Contact Bob Burns for further details.

Healing Mass

Friday, Nov. 5, 5 pm
St. John the Evangelist Church
Goshen, NY

Please join us for this evening of prayer and healing. Dinner will follow at Logan's Well; dinner at your expense. More details to follow.

Junior Division News

~ The Juniors are looking forward to their new year, when they will meet and plan for the upcoming events for 2010/2011. New officers for Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Mistress-at-Arms will be elected to replace the these vacant positions. A September meeting date has yet to be determined. New members welcomed!

Remembering 9/11

At the end of this newsletter, there is a very special article submitted by Gail Edmonds, of a homily which was presented by a priest, Fr. Brian Cavanaugh. It is rather lengthy, but to edit it would take away the meaning to his words spoken following the unconscionable acts of that day. So it is included, unedited, in this newsletter, so that you may reflect on his words.

G.Cane, Editor

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your **Spirit** and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same **Holy Spirit** we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through **Christ** Our Lord, Amen.



“Celebrating the Year of the Priest”

A beautiful evening was enjoyed on Friday, September 17, as a dinner was held in honor of the “Year of the Priest” at St. John’ the Evangelist in Goshen. Donations from various restaurants throughout Orange County provided a generous spread that was presented to the priests who were able to attend. Thank you to all who helped in any stage of this great night. Approximately 20 priests sat, ate, relaxed and were treated to a fantastic dinner - all through donations received from local businesses. I would like to thank Tommy Flynn for his unending support and for chairing the Committee. Thank you to Jim Kelly, Jon Cane, Jim Corcoran, and Chris Debold (and Brendan for picking up that food!) from Division 1. From Division 5: Patty Ryan, Mary Luciana, Peggy Walsh, Sheila Toohey, Lorraine O’Dowd, Barbara Slifkin, Gail Cane, Gail Edmonds and Briege Debold, Division 4, Ed Burke; GWL Gaelic, a sincere special thank you to Maureen Mulcahy for all that she did. The Pipe band was the icing on the cake, our priests really enjoyed those pipes! And last but not least thank you to all who donated items so graciously. What a great group we have!

(Additional photos can be found on our website)



In Remembrance of September 11, 2001

Homily by
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh
September 16, 2001, TOR

This sure has been some week! Where does one begin? Thomas Paine wrote in *The American Crisis, no. 1* (December 23, 1776), "These are the times that try men's souls." Well, this past week has been trying times for all Americans. Today, there are no hyphenated Americans--not Irish-Americans, not Italian-Americans, not African-Americans, or others... There are just Americans who have been assaulted by the horrors and hatred unleashed by forces of evil. Even on the news there was a weeping Frenchwoman who said, "Today, we are all Americans."

Know well! These were not acts by Arabs, or Muslims, or any true followers of the Koran. They were acts by fanatics filled with so much hatred that their hearts were blackened to evil. In many ways they are just like the KKK or "skinheads" who are not righteous Christians, but forces of hate. The root of the word "terror," or "terrorism," comes from the Indo-European base "tre" (shake or tremble) and means to "shake with fear." It does well to understand that the aim of terror is to break your spirit, to cause you fear, to fall into despair and darkness. However, we have a God, the Rock of Ages, who is the God of mercy, the God of hope and the God of light. So let us walk in the light, steadfast in faith!

This past week my feelings have been like a yo-yo--shock, horror, sorrow, sadness, fear, anger, helplessness, compassion, frustration, concern--as I'm sure yours were too. There was an intensity of emotions colliding with the depth of our feelings, overwhelmed by the magnitude of these tragic events. However we cannot act simply on our feelings. In recent days there has been one word that is often used in speeches, prayers and sermons, and that word is--**RESOLVE!** For those who know me, that means a trip to the dictionary to make sure I understand the terms used. In the *Random House Dictionary* the definition of **resolve** is as follows:

to come to a definite or earnest decision about; to determine...to progress from dissonance to consonance....to make up one's mind, dedicate oneself to, decide,...fixed intention, commitment, purpose...steadfast purpose, firmness of intent.

There is no doubt about it; emotions are running high. There is a desire to hit back--to hurt someone, something--but we must have greater resolve, in our faith and as a citizen. By far, this has been the most difficult sermon I have had to prepare. So much needs to be said, but where are the proper words? What can be said at a moment like this in history? What words adequately can convey the horror and shock we feel at this catastrophic evil? These are difficult times with no quick and easy answers, just--**Why?...Why?...Why?**

One feels so unbelievably inadequate in times like this, and then there are these readings on repentance and the Prodigal Son parable (Lk. 15:11-32). Where to begin? Across the nation, church services were overflowing during the week. And churches are packed this weekend as people try to make sense of this tragedy, come to grips with the terror brought into their homes. People of all faiths are joining together to lift up their hearts, their spirits and their voices.

Many prodigal sons and daughters have turned to God during this time. In an instant, priorities were changed and values converted. Time will tell if these outpourings of faith are a resolve to turn around their lives, or transitory seeking of comfort and solace.

September 11, 2001--a day that will be remembered always. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best has been brought forth--through the heroic efforts by firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in this time of crisis. Max Lucado wrote, "We are not as self-centered as we were. We are not as self-reliant as we were." Yes, hearts are pierced, heads are bowed, knees are bent, but united we stand! A glimmer of hope continues to shine through the clouds of darkness and terror. We read from Psalm 27: "The Lord is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek

his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors....I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." And, we see in New York harbor, Lady Liberty's torch brightly beaconing hope amid these darkest hours of terror. If we hold to the Lord as our light and our salvation there is no darkness so dark that can dim even the tiniest flicker of faith, hope and freedom. Again, we read in St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (5:8-9) "...now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." Rev. Billy Graham, speaking last Friday at the National Cathedral's prayer service, reminded us that we need "to be moved more by compassion for one another rather than contempt of our enemies." Evil cannot be faced with rampant, unbridled hatred; for then we become that which we most deplore--our hearts too can be turned to a similar blackness of hatred. In the days ahead, we should not be interested in revenge, but be interested more in mobilizing people to channel their energies to serve a greater good. It is important that each of us examines our heart in response to God saying to Moses: "They have turned aside from the way I pointed out to them..."(Ex. 32:7-11, 13-14). The Gospel Imperative is **Now!** Now is the time...Today not tomorrow. This is the day each of us must be prepared, to repent of our ways and return to the ways of the Lord. So what can we do? How do we respond? How do we focus, or channel, our pent-up feelings and emotions **to do something?**

I propose, that each one of us resolves in a greater way seeking to walk in the light of the Lord, and not crawl in the pits of despair; that each one of us resolves to be a man or woman of compassion, and not of contempt; that each one of us pray with great expectancy, and with firm resolve that this day, and every day, that we become instruments of Christ's peace.

Please join me in praying The Peace Prayer (attributed to the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi):

Today, Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

In closing we pray: National Prayer

(adapted from www.mamarocks.com)

Lord, we come to You on bended knee, heads bowed and our hearts filled to overflowing with so much grief for the many people who have died, for those injured and for the families waiting for word of the missing, any word. **We ask** you Lord, to give courage and strength to those who so bravely go to their aid. And though their hearts will be heavy and filled with sorrow we ask Lord that You give them the endurance needed to help them through this difficult task.

Please give us the strength Lord, to get through each difficult and devastating day that faces each of us and our country. Protect and guide our Military that are now being called to duty.

We ask Lord, that You guide the leaders of our great country in their hour of decision. The burden that has been placed on their shoulders during this crisis is overwhelming. We ask that with Your infinite wisdom You guide them gently to the right decisions.

And lastly Lord, we ask that You allow us all to come together as a Nation, to stand tall and united, so that we might help each other in our hour of need.

Amen