



Ladies AOH

Division 5, "Mary of the Gael"

Division Happenings



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President

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Photos

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A Message from the President...

Dear Sisters,

Somehow it always happens, I think I will present a message in one way, and an event occurs that changes it's course. This month it was the death of a good friend, a friend who died in her sleep and leaves two young children behind; this event has me wondering about many things. Reflecting back upon the past few months, I can say that while we are all encountering various forms of illness and suffering, our unity has never been stronger. I have seen members, who perhaps a year or two ago may have been casual friends, really go out of their way for each other. I have seen new friendships being formed, members inviting each other for lunches, dinners, etc. This is friendship personified and it is great. This is what it is all about.; LAOH Division 5 personifies our motto and I could not be more proud to be with all of you. Friendship.

I mentioned suffering and illness in the opening of my message – we have seen members and their husbands have serious major surgery, job loss, the death of young friends, the death of siblings, health stress, financial stress, family members off to war, the list goes on. Things are not all doom and gloom: we have also seen happiness – members becoming parents, soon to be grandparents, friends in AOH Division 1 becoming grandparents, some of our children off to college, children going to dance finals, making it to the Fleadh, etc. Amongst all of these events, I see a really nice form of unity and bonding. Even when times are seemingly at their darkest hour, Division 5 is together as one. Unity.

With all of this in mind, our Catholic Action Officer, Lorraine O'Dowd, will be planning a Healing Mass – details TBA, hopefully in the next month, for us and our friends in the AOH & LAOH. It will be a time for us to come together and pray for what ails us – physically, emotionally, spiritually.... even though all Masses are considered to be Healing Masses, this will be a special Mass. I urge each member to attend and if anyone would like to help Lorraine with the planning, please come forward.

Our members' mixer was well attended and leaves behind quite a few fond memories, thank you to all who attended and brought great treats! We held our 2nd annual yard sale, this time with part 2 ... a special thank you to Brieger Debold, Kelly Fleming, Janice Reynolds, Mary Luciana, Noreen McGovern and to all the members who donated items. We will be holding our 1st annual Irish Stew cook-off in October, a day you will not want to miss. Our Dinner for Priests is in final stage planning, thank you to Tommy Flynn, Div 1, who is chairing the event along with the Committee. This is an event to celebrate the end of the Year of the Priest at a much needed time in our Church. Here we personify the last leg of our motto: Christian Charity.

Please let us know if there are any events/ideas we can incorporate to make things even better. Bring a new worthy member to our meeting in September.

What can I say? Thank you all and I look forward to our next meeting in September. I hope to catch up with everyone I did not get to see over the summer. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

PS. At the time of writing, there are 29 days until school starts, but hey, who's counting.....

Yours in our motto,

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

Upcoming Events

August 7

*AOH Division 1
Irish Luau*

August 21

*Our Lady of Knock
Celebrations*

Sept. 17

*Year of the Priest
Dinner*

Sept. 24

*LAOH Div. 5
Meeting, 8 pm
AOH Hall*

Ongoing Events

*Traditional Irish
Seisun,
Sunday afternoons
at the Hall
(call first during
summer)*

*Irish Set Dancing
Lessons every
Monday, 7-9 pm,
Div. 1 AOH Hall
Will resume in
September*

LAOH DIVISION 5 Good and Welfare

~ Good luck to Maureen Gertzki, Elizabeth Curtin and Bridget Curtin who will attend, with their families, the All-Ireland Competition held in Cavan in August.. The girls competed in the Mid-Atlantic Region CCE Fleadh Cheoil held at the Pearl River Middle School on May 22 & 23. Maureen and Elizabeth's ceili band placed 1st, and Bridget's ceili band placed 2nd, qualifying the girls to attend this event.

Maggie's Celtic Cottage

Have you ever tried to find the perfect Irish gift with no luck? Right in our midst, LAOH Div. 5 member Margaret Barry has the very store for all your Irish gift needs as well as a full service florist. Along with Maryann Twanctw, also Div. 5 member, they are always there with a smile and helping hand, in addition to their generous support of Div. 5 events and needs (our division banner, hosting the annual June Yard Sale). So the next time you need that "something special" for a friend or family member, just stop by Maggie's Celtic Cottage in Monroe, where you'll find Margaret or Maryann there to help you find the perfect gift!

Our Lady of Knock Feast Celebrations

This year, two celebrations will be held in honor of Our Lady of Knock, both on Saturday, August 21. The details are as follows:

~ **9 AM - AOH Div. 4 and the Irish Heritage Festival Committee** is hosting a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown. A Communion Breakfast after the Mass is planned and all proceeds will go to the Carmelites for (preferably) a security system for the Shrine. Details will follow by email.

~ **5:30 PM - Orange County LAOH - Division 2** will host the Mass at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, 340 Hudson Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY; dinner to follow at Gloria's Restaurant, Route 32, New Windsor, NY. Details will follow by email.

AOH DIV. 1 IRISH LUAU

*Sat., August 7
Craigtville Park, Goshen
12-7 pm
\$25/person; \$40/couple;
\$50/family of four
Food, refreshments, children's games,
entertainment featuring John Nolan, All-Ireland Accordion Champion, Jerry Piper Band, AOH Pipes & Drums
Don't miss this great day of fun for the whole family!*

Junior Division News

~ Thanks to Gail Edmonds for hosting the end of the year pool/pizza party for the Juniors. A great time was had by all!

~ The Juniors are looking forward to September 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 those that left (Aisling Myers for college and Carissa and Caitlin Goff for North Carolina). New members welcomed!

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

LAOH 5 and AOH 1 are co-hosting a Dinner to celebrate the end of the Year of the Priest, to be held at St. John's in Goshen, Sept 17, beginning at 5 pm. Priests from Orange County have been invited as well Archbishop Dolan. We have also invited our County & State LAOH & AOH Presidents. This is a dinner by invitation only, however volunteers are still needed to help with this celebratory event. Please contact Gail Edmonds or Tommy Flynn if you are interested in volunteering.

MEMBERS' MIXER

This year's mixer was hosted by division president, Gail Edmonds. The rain threatened but couldn't spoil this wonderful night. Members and their spouses arrived, laden with food and beverages, to share with all, while we enjoyed a casual summer evening catching up with each other's news!

DIV. 5 YARD SALE – Part II

A special thanks to Kelly Fleming & husband Tom for hosting the event. It was a great success, with many items being sold. Special thanks to Brieger Debold for organizing both sales, and Noreen McGovern, Mary Luciana, Janice Reynolds for helping, and to all members who donated. There were a few items left which Brieger posted on Craigslist for free, and we helped a few families that way too. It's always a pleasure to work with such great women!

*SPOTLIGHT ON.....Sister Ann Daly, PBVM
Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor, NY*

Comfort. Palliative care. Hospice. In the world which Sr. Ann Daly inhabits, all these elements come together as a person embarks upon the final journey of life. When the aggressive forms of medical care are no longer effective, "...we help our patients focus on living each day to the fullest. We see our patients and families deal with the daily challenges of life with faith, dignity, and courage."

Sr. Ann fills in the picture of hospice, a program consisting of a team of nurses, social workers, providers of spiritual care, volunteers and home health aides. Patients are offered medical, emotional and spiritual support.

In a given day, Sr. Ann might see a patient for the first time, bring Holy Communion to a person living in his own home or in the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence located in Newburgh, help a family plan a funeral or visit a spouse, parent, or sibling trying to deal with the bereavement process. The mention of Communion raises the question of religion in general. "Yes," Sister says, "there are persons of many faiths and of none. Surprisingly, the program's Catholic population generally hovers at about 75% in an area that is statistically 50% Catholic. Despite religious affiliation, if a person in the hospice program wishes to see Sr. Ann, there are no barriers.

Persons dedicated to work among the dying are keenly aware that they minister not only to the person facing death. "We work with and for the family as a unit of care, because when one member of a family suffers, all share in that suffering." The "we" she speaks of is Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties in NY. It describes itself as a "specialized care program for terminally ill patients with an advanced stage of illness, having a life expectancy of six months or less." For over a quarter of a century, Sr. Ann has ministered in the program - from its inception to the present.

This work constantly focused on end of life issues, might be thought of as depressing, but Sr. Ann's experience contradicts this. "We are blessed to share in the final journey of a person's life. My work is very rewarding. I see many patients who are an inspiration and an example of courage and strength. They teach us how to live life each day with gratitude for all our blessings."

May God Bless you, Sister Ann. The world is a much better place because of you.

Prayer in Times of Suffering

Behold me my beloved Jesus, weighed down under the burden of my trials and sufferings, I cast myself at Your feet, that You may renew my strength and my courage, while I rest here in Your Presence. Permit me to lay down my cross in Your Sacred Heart, for only Your infinite goodness can sustain me; only Your love can help me bear my cross; only Your powerful hand can lighten its weight. O Divine King, Jesus, whose heart is so compassionate to the afflicted, I wish to live in You; suffer and die in You. During my life, be to me my model and my support; at the hour of my death, be my hope and my refuge. Amen

(Submitted by Gail Edmonds)