

President's Message - September 2014

Hello Brothers,

I hope you had a great, safe Labor Day weekend by celebrating with a picnic, parade, barbecue or just relaxing. Unfortunately, it suggests the end of summer, although the football season is starting and our Lions should have a better season.

You should be considering a Division officer position for 2015. They are President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Marshal, Sentinel and Chairman of the Standing Committee. There are appointed positions available also. Nominations will occur at our October meeting and finish with nominations and the election at our November meeting. Please contact me or other officers if you have any questions about position responsibilities and the election process.

The annual An Gorta Mor mass commemorating the Great Hunger is Sunday, September 21 at St. Joseph's Church in Irish Hills. AOH and LAOH members are welcome to attend. After mass a ceremony will be conducted at Michigan's only "An Gorta Mor Hibernian Monument" which is located near the Church. This is also a celebration of the installation of the monument 10 years ago. (See Pg 3 for the history of An Gorta Mor.)

The United Irish Society organized Irish Night with the Detroit Tigers Thursday, September 25th. I look forward to seeing some of you there supporting the Tigers to victory.

A charity poker event at Vision Lanes in Westland from Dec 11-14 (Thursday – Sunday) is scheduled for our 3rd event of the year. It will be our first event there after Northville Downs closed.

AOH members and others will be attending a retreat the weekend of September 19 - 21 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center near Schoolcraft/Telegraph. You can contact Chris Scanlan at (734) 525-0969 for further information or reservations. I will be attending my 9th retreat. I have always experienced interesting and motivating spiritual talks that provide a new awareness of God's love for us. The theme this year is "Healing Life's Hurts – Embracing New Hope".

The LAOH Elizabeth Fagan Division is hosting the 10th anniversary of the Luncheon and Chocolate Affair Sunday, October 5 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The luncheon (\$25) is noon to 2:00 and the Chocolate Affair is 2:00 to 5:00 (\$25). The Chocolate Affair includes chocolate delights from restaurants, confectioners and caterers. Funds raised benefit First Step, who provides shelter and counseling for victims experiencing domestic violence.

Please support Declan and Tab as they continue recruiting good Irish Catholic men to join our Division to experience our motto. Remember there are flyers and recruiting cards available to provide to prospective members.

I look forward to seeing you at our September 9th meeting.
Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Mike

Welcome brother Joe Nelson!



Patrick Ryan Division was very happy to welcome another new brother to our order at our August 12th meeting. Pictured above immediately after his initiation ceremony with President Mike Riley (left) is new brother Joe Nelson (right). Please give Joe a warm welcome when you see him!



Our Lady of Knock Mass

A large group of AOH/LAOH members, family and friends attended the Our Lady of Knock Mass celebrated by our Chaplain, Fr. Pat Casey, on Sunday August 17th. The Mass was celebrated in the new AOH Hall in Redford. A nice ice cream social was held after Mass.

AN GORTA MÓR

THE GREAT HUNGER

The **Great Famine** (Irish: *an Gorta Mór*) was a period of mass starvation, disease and emigration in Ireland between 1845 and 1852. It is sometimes referred to, mostly outside Ireland, as the **Irish Potato Famine** because about two-fifths of the population was solely reliant on this cheap crop for a number of historical reasons. During the famine approximately 1 million people died and a million more emigrated from Ireland, causing the island's population to fall by between 20% and 25%.

The proximate cause of famine was a potato disease commonly known as potato blight, which ravaged potato crops throughout Europe during the 1840s. However the impact in Ireland was disproportionate as one third of the population was dependent on the potato for a range of ethnic, religious, political, social and economic reasons, such as land acquisition, absentee landlords and the Corn Laws, which all contributed to the disaster to varying degrees and remain the subject of intense historical debate.

Although the potato crop failed, the country itself was still producing and exporting large quantities of food. Ireland exported approximately thirty to fifty shiploads per day to Britain, which was more than enough to feed the population. The food exports in conjunction with draconian laws have led some historians and authors to use the term genocide in relation to the tragedy.

The famine was a watershed in the history of Ireland. Its effects permanently changed the island's demographic, political and cultural landscape. For both the native Irish and those in the resulting diaspora, the famine entered folk memory and became a rallying point for various Home rule and United Ireland movements, as the whole island was then part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The massive famine soured the already strained relations between many of the Irish people and the British Crown, heightening Irish republicanism, which eventually led to Irish independence in the next century. Modern historians regard it as a dividing line in the Irish historical narrative, referring to the preceding period of Irish history as "pre-Famine".





Have you heard about the Irish boomerang?
It doesn't come back, it just sings sad songs about how
much it wants to.
Ouch!



Patrick Ryan Division green coats (\$330), blue jackets (\$75), sashes (\$60), and blue shirts (\$25/\$30) are available to all members.

Please contact Ed Harkins for your clothing items!



If you are receiving this newsletter by snail mail, it means I don't have an active email address for you. If you have one, please email and let me know at edward.harkins@gmail.com. Thanks!

Ed Harkins, Newsletter Editor

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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Please pray for all division members
or family sick or in distress.

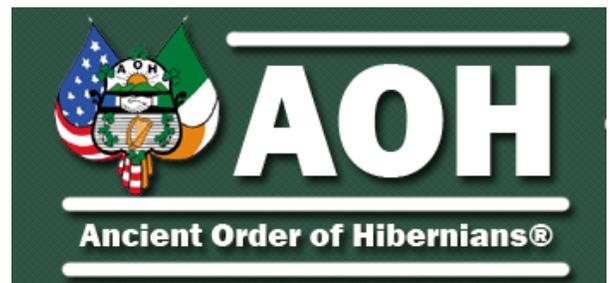


**Don't forget our next meeting -
Tuesday, September 9th.**

Be there and help to welcome any
new members initiated that night!

Pizza and 50/50 drawing after the
meeting!

Must be present to eat and win!!!



Calendar of upcoming events:

Sept 9, 2014

Ryan Division meeting, 7:30 pm, Renaud Council K of C

Sept 19 - 21, 2014

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Men's Retreat

Sept 21, 2014

An Gorta Mor Mass (10th anniv), St. Ptarick's Irish Hills

Sept 25, 2014

UIS Irish Night at Comerica Park, Detroit

Oct 5, 2014

LAOH Elizabeth Fagan Division "Chocolate Affair" event

Oct 14, 2014

Ryan Division meeting, 7:30 pm, Renaud Council K of C



Remember our motto:
Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity!

Next Meeting - 7:30 pm Tues.
September 9th, 2014
Renaud Council K of C Hall
Fair & Mill Streets
Plymouth, MI

AOH Patrick Ryan Division
c/o Newsletter Editor
45072 Lothrop Ct.
Canton, MI 48188

