

## Ryan Division Ramblings - November 2016

Hello Brothers,

This Veteran's Day, November 11, is dedicated to honor all those in the armed forces with the respect and gratitude they so richly deserve including many in our Division. Their legacy reminds us that selfless service in the defense of liberty is a hallmark of all our military members for a safe and peaceful United States of America.

Have a great Thanksgiving Day celebration with family and friends while thanking God for his many blessings and bountiful harvest.

Congratulations to the brothers nominated for our 2017 Division officers at our October meeting. They were: President: Tim Higgins, Vice President: Joe Kelly and Bill Brang, Financial Secretary: Ed Harkins, Treasurer: Rick St. Peter, Recording Secretary: Tom Kish and Sean Nichols, Chairman of the Standing Committee: Duke Hynek, Marshal: Mark Gunn, Sentinel: Mike Murray and Bob Yancey. Additional nominations and final elections will be made at our November 8th meeting. The willingness of our brothers to assume these important positions is appreciated. Please plan to be there to elect our worthy brothers to our 2017 offices.

At our last meeting we decided to volunteer Tuesday, December 6th from 4:30-8:00 sorting gifts for Canton Goodfellows at the Canton Administration Building. It will be great to volunteer so kids can experience a better Christmas. **Please let me know if you will support this event.** Your significant other and friends are welcome to volunteer also.

Our Christmas dinner is Sunday, December 4th at K of C Renaud Council where we meet monthly. The reception will start at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 7:00. The cost for the buffet dinner is \$5/person. Our Division will pay the hall rental fee and the remaining cost of each dinner. I look forward to an enjoyable social evening celebrating the Christmas season with you and your significant others.

There is Christmas Craft Bazaar Nov 19-20 at AOH Hall with Irish items and gifts available from 25 vendors. Children's Santa shop is featured. Organized LAOH Rose Kennedy Division.

The Spirit of Christmas features Andy Cooney & his band Monday, December 5 at 7:30 at the AOH Hall. Special guest is Deirdre Reilly and the world class Irish dancers are featured. Cost is \$25. Food and drinks are available for purchase.

**THANKS** for the time/support of brothers who volunteered for our Oct 26-29 event at Doc's that raised \$3,016. It was most appreciated. These funds will be directed to Christian charities and AOH activities that we determine are most appropriate to continue reaching out making a difference.

Please continue recruiting good Irish Catholic men to join us and experience our motto.

I hope to see you at our November 8th meeting.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Mike Riley / AOH Patrick Ryan Division President

## Time to pay your 2017 dues!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** 2017 membership dues should be paid by **December 31, 2016**. You may bring your dues with you to any meeting between now and the end of the year and save the division the expense of sending you an invoice. If you like, you can mail Financial Secretary, Ed Harkins, a check also - (send to: 45072 Lothrop Ct. Canton, MI 48188). Make checks payable to **AOH Ryan Division**. Dues are \$40 (\$35 if you are retired). 2017 membership cards will be sent to you after they are received and you have paid.

Unless you are a priest, active duty military, an AOH Life member or an associate member, you must pay dues to remain active in our order. Thank you brothers!

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## 2017 Officer Nominations - as of Oct 11th

At our October 11 general meeting, we heard nominations for 2017 Ryan Division officers. This wee at our November 8th meeting, we will hear nominations for a 2nd time and then vote on our officer slate for 2017. Officers elected at this meeting will take office effective January 1, 2017.

Officers initially nominated and their acceptance or rejection of their nomination are noted below:

President - Tim Higgins (accepted)  
Vice President - Bill Brang (accepted), Joe Kelly (accepted)  
Recording Secretary - Tom Kish (accepted), Sean Nichols (acceptance pending)  
Financial Secretary - Ed Harkins (accepted)  
Treasurer - Rick St. Peter (accepted)  
Chairman of the Standing Committee - Duke Hynek (accepted)  
Marshall - Mark Gunn (accepted)  
Sentinel - Mike Murray (accepted), Mike Rouhan (declined), Bob Yancey (accepted)

If you are a member in good standing and would like to be involved in the leadership of your division, you can ask someone to nominate you or you can nominate yourself for any of these positions. The future success of the division depends on the efforts of those men willing to serve and support the activities of Patrick Ryan Division. Should you like to be a part of that effort, please attend our November 8th meeting and participate in the second hearing of nominations followed by our actual election of 2017 officers.





***From the Desk of AOH National President James F. McKay...***

Brothers,

As we close out the month of October we find ourselves in the midst of two important days to Hibernians. All Saints' Day on November 1st and Veterans Day on November 11th. With this in mind we are sending you an article from Jim Green, National Veterans Affairs Chairman and Bill Lehn, Ohio State Catholic Action Chairman.

Brother Lehn reminds us "All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1 and generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day (Catholic Online) He also takes the time to look at the origin of Halloween and the tie to Ireland and the Catholic church.

Brother Green takes us to the origin of Veterans Day and the importance of sharing our gratitude with the many Veterans in our lives. Although we recognize their efforts daily we also give our Veterans the special recognition they earned on this important day.

Please take a moment to read the articles below and share with our brother Hibernians.

In our Motto,

James F. McKay III



***From "Liam" William Lehn, Ohio Catholic Action Chairman...***

Brothers,

"All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven."(Catholic Online)

"Generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness."(Catholic Online)

As we prepare to celebrate Halloween this weekend into next week, let me remind you a little bit of just how this holiday started, it's origin in Ireland and it's relationship to all Saints day. However, "it is important to remember these basic facts: Halloween is a secular holiday that comes the night before All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is on November 1, and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Souls' Day in on November 2, and it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation."(Catholic Online)

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In what has become a holiday in which more adults celebrate than St. Patrick's Day, \$6.9 Billion versus \$4.7 Billion in merchandise, costumes, and food (according to 2015 National Retail Foundation statistics) many do not know that many origins cite it as a Celtic holiday tradition.

We first see a reference to Halloween in the Celtic Calendar with the Autumn Festival of Samhain, which was held the first day of November. The pagans celebrated four festivals and the Samhain Festival is widely accepted as the traditional end of the Celtic year. The festival meaning is rooted in its word etymology with Sam meaning summer. According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, its origin is "from Irish samhain (Gaelic samhuinn), from Old Irish samain, literally "summer's end," from Old Irish sam "summer" (see summer (n.1)) + fuin "end." Nov. 1, the Celtic festival of the start of winter and of the new year." Rather than being about rituals or worshipping the dead, the Celts marked it as the end of a season and the beginning of the Irish Winter.

In an effort to move Christians away from pagan gods and culture in the early 7th Century, Pope Boniface IV established All Saints Day around 609 or 610 AD. This day is also known as All Hallows Day and thus All Hallows Eve being October 31st or Halloween. Even though the Celts celebrated this festival in a spiritual sense, a lot of confusion ensued in the transition years and the holiday took on a darker meaning. Being known for a transition from one year to the next, the Samhain Festival devolved into a transition between worlds as evidenced tales of the puca or Irish evil fairies spitting on any unharvested apples to make them inedible as the Samhain marked the end of the final harvest of the summer, and all apples had to have been picked by the time the day's feasting began.

In a world and time where banshees and fairies also existed, Samhain offered a time where they could freely move about and the ancient Celts often lit bonfires and wore ugly masks to both ward off evil spirits and to stop the dead from identifying those people they disliked during their lives.

Another reference to modern day Halloween and passing out candy can also be traced back to Samhain and the early Celts. While the outspoken lit fires and raised hell (so to speak), the timid, however, would leave out food in their homes, or at the nearest hawthorn or whitethorn bush (where fairies were known to live), hoping that their generosity would appease the spirits. Revelers also bobbed for apples in buckets of water and quenched their thirst with mugs of spiced cider. Also, the dish Colcannon, an Irish potato pie made with Kale that comes into season in winter in Ireland is often viewed as a traditional Halloween meal that pays homage to our ancestors.

As you enjoy your Magners Irish Cider and bob for apples all while wearing your ugly Hillary or Trump mask, know full well your ancient Irish history is completely represented in the celebration of the 2016 Halloween Season.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Liam  
William Lehn  
Ohio Catholic Action Chairman

***From Jim Green, AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman...***

Dear Hibernian Brothers and military veterans,

As we approach Veterans Day on Friday, November 11th, please try to make an effort to do something, or say something, special to a veteran on this special holiday. Just buy him or her a cup of coffee if you can, and say thanks.

Recently, Brother Rich O'Malley of Pittsburgh reminded me that this past Sunday, October 23rd, marked the 41st anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Try to remember those that came home, and those that didn't make it back, in your prayers today.

Finally, AOH Virginia State Vice President and Veterans Chairman Bill Halpin shared this short piece with me that I wanted to take the opportunity to put in front of you, too. It reads as follows:

"On Friday, November 11th, we'll be celebrating Veterans Day. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson established Armistice Day on the first anniversary of the end World War I. The armistice was signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all military veterans. Veterans Day should not be confused with Memorial Day. Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service."

May God bless you and your families this upcoming holiday season, and may He bring all of our brothers and sisters home safely.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Jim Green  
AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman



## How the Irish saved Thanksgiving!



The first Thanksgiving was actually celebrated on February 21, 1621 when a band of starving pilgrims at Plymouth Rock were saved at the last minute by the arrival of a ship from Dublin bearing food from Ireland.

The Boston Post, the largest circulation newspaper in the 1920 and 1930s, discovered the earlier date for the Thanksgiving ritual. It showed that the traditional date of the autumn of 1621 was actually incorrect.

According to the "Observant Citizen," a columnist for the Boston Post, the Pilgrims in the winter of their first year were starving and faced the end of their project to colonize the new land when "a ship arrived from overseas bearing the much needed food."

The Observant Citizen, because of anti-Irish prejudice refused to name it as an Irish ship, but it was actually The Lyon and "its provenance and that of the food was Dublin Ireland."

It turns out, from records at the Massachusetts Historical Society, that the wife of one of the prominent Plymouth brethren was the daughter of a Dublin merchant and that it was he who chartered the vessel, loaded it with food and dispatched it to Plymouth.

The Observant Citizen, whoever he was, never admitted the Irish connection even though a number of Irish organizations challenged him on the issue.

Nonetheless the Massachusetts historical records revealed the tale giving the Irish a fair claim to saving Thanksgiving!

*Pictured above: A painting by JLG Ferris, "The First Thanksgiving": A band of starving pilgrims at Plymouth Rock were saved at the last minute by the arrival of a ship from Dublin. (reprinted from 2015 newsletter)*



### Is Thanksgiving celebrated in Ireland?

Not really. The Catholic Church in Ireland has no designated day set down for a harvest festival or thanksgiving celebration - it is very much down to the local parishes to organize this in their own time. But in general...that particular Thursday is just another Thursday in Ireland (and before you ask, there is no Black Friday as well).



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!

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 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](mailto:edward.harkins@gmail.com). Thanks!

Ed Harkins, Newsletter Editor

# AOH

## Patrick Ryan Division Officers

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Treasurer: Rick St. Peter  
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Recording Secretary: Tom Kish  
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Chairman of the Standing  
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Marshal: Mark Gunn  
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 Dan Riley, [danieljohnriley@gmail.com](mailto:danieljohnriley@gmail.com)

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



**Don't forget our next  
 meeting - Tuesday, November 8th**

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:

**Nov 6, 2016**

**AOH/LAOH Memorial Mass, 1:00 pm, AOH Walsh Hall**

**Nov 8, 2016**

**ELECTION DAY IN THE UNITED STATES!**

**Nov 8, 2016**

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

**Nov 24, 2016**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**Dec 4, 2016**

**Ryan Div Christmas Party, 6:00 pm, Renaud K of C**

**DEC 6, 2016**

**Goodfellows event, 4:30 pm, Canton Twp Admin Bldg**



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

Next Meeting - 7:30 pm Tues.  
November 8th, 2016  
Renaud Council K of C Hall  
Fair & Mill Streets  
Plymouth, MI

AOH Patrick Ryan Division  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
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