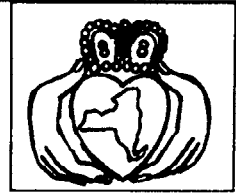




*Empire State*  
**Hibernian**

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## President's Message

Matt Nelligan

Let me begin by thanking all of you who attended my testimonial dinner in October and a special thank you to the committee who made this event possible. My brother Brian was the driving force behind this effort, and through his leadership it all came together beautifully. It is always gratifying and humbling when people work so hard for the purpose of recognizing your contributions and hard work. I know I speak for John Hennessy as well as Congressman McNulty when I say that it was a great night for us and our families and friends who were able to attend and a great night to be a Hibernian.

As we move into the winter months, it is time that we again turn our attention to the Christmas Appeal. New York continues to be the leading state in contributions to this program and we certainly want to continue this trend. Brother Frank Corcoran our State Freedom for All Ireland Chairman has been communicating with you since early September about our goals for this year's appeal. He has asked that each division donate \$1 per member or at least

pledge \$100 to this very worthy cause. Some might ask-Why do we still need to financially support people in the North of Ireland? The reason is that while the war is over, the effects of that war on our Irish-Catholic brothers persist. This can be seen in the need for job training, and also in the distressingly high suicide rate amongst those in the Nationalist Community. These problems need to be addressed, and the funding to address them is not coming at an acceptable rate from the government. In a sense we have won the war, but we must not lose the peace. To that end it is vital that each division support our 2008 Christmas Appeal, and get your check to Brother Corcoran no later than January 24th, 2009 so that your donation can be included in the checks delivered the following week by the National FFAI Chair, Sean Pender. The New York State Board will be doing its part as well. On Saturday January 24th, the State Board will sponsor a fundraising concert featuring Black 47 at the Albany Hall at 375 Ontario St. Tickets are \$20 and tables of ten are available by contacting me at my home number. As we did last year, concert sponsorships are also available for those divisions

wishing to be recognized, but who are unable to attend. For \$100 donation, you can be included in all advertising and be recognized the night of the event, on the state website and in this newsletter.

Another event that we need to support in large numbers is the 2009 March for Life in Washington DC. Working for the protection of the innocent unborn is one of this Order's top priorities and in recognition of this fact, we should not only attend the March, but we should also show our AOH Pride by wearing clothing that identifies us as Hibernians. If you come in to Washington the night before the March consider attending a Mass for life which is held at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located at 400 Michigan Avenue. For more information about the mass visit their website at [www.nationalshrine.com](http://www.nationalshrine.com). Our Brothers from Washington DC will hold a breakfast from 9am-Noon at the Irish Channel Restaurant at the intersection of 5th and F Streets. A full breakfast along with Coffee and juice will be served at a cost of \$20 per person. Theodore Cardinal McCarrick and the Archbishop of Washington DC have both

been invited to attend.

AOH members are asked to gather at Constitution Avenue and 6th Street facing the Supreme Court Building on the left side of the Street. The March kicks off at 1pm, so please be there by that time.

I would like to thank all of the elected and appointed officers for their hard work over the last 18 months. Without you, we would not have been able to accomplish so much. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and May God bless you and your families.

We need to take action now to reverse deep cuts that have been made to state aid to our Catholic Schools and prevent more cuts at the special legislative session this November. There is no doubt that the State is in a deep fiscal crisis. However, at the same time that we are told that the State is making "Across the Board Cuts" and Catholic School Aid is cut by 17 million, public school aid was INCREASED BY 1.8 BILLION. I sent the attached letter to Governor Paterson, the legislative leadership and to my representatives in the State Assembly and Senate. I urge you to do the same and to do so quickly. Only through decisive action can we end these cuts to Catholic Schools. Feel free to use whatever you want from my letter, or even to use the whole letter and sign your name. Let's make a difference for our kids.

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Dear Governor Paterson:

I write on behalf of our membership all across New York State to advocate for the restoration of the more than 17 million dollars in cuts that have been made to Mandated Services Aid to Catholic Schools. I am very aware that these are tough economic times, but it is precisely because this is the case that we should not mortgage our children's educational future and by extension the future of New York State.

Catholic Schools are a highway of opportunity for students of all religions and backgrounds. As you are aware, the ability to attend Catholic schools has saved many children living in the inner city who otherwise would have had to attend a better funded, but less safe and successful public school. These are the children that are most vulnerable, should Catholic schools be forced to close due to these cuts which are neither fair to students nor effective in closing the budget deficit. The Catholic School portion of Mandated Services Aid is a drop in the bucket when compared with the State's overall fiscal health and yet it is vitally important to the parents and students who count on these schools each day.

We have heard much discussion of "Across the Board Cuts" and yet public schools received an additional \$1.8 billion for the second year in a row, while

Catholic Schools face cuts. Our concern for children should not be dictated by the kind of school that they attend, it should instead reflect our shared commitment to the education of ALL children.

I urge you to restore the Mandated Service Aid that was recently cut and in both the November 18<sup>th</sup> session and the new session that begins in January to avoid any further cuts to Catholic Schools. This is an issue that our membership cares about deeply, as the future of Catholic education is also the future of Catholicism and of organizations such as ours.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelligan  
New York State President

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Chaplain

Fr. Henry W. Reid

My apologies for missing the previous issue of the NYS Hibernian, but sometimes the life of a priest can get slightly busy.

We now have a new president, and while I congratulate Brother Boyle on his election to Presidency of the AOH, I am referring to the election of President Elect Obama. This represents a great challenge to the AOH and all of its members, not because of Senator Obama's Race or Creed, but because our incoming President is an unapologetically Abortionist. While some of you may be thinking that this

is an issue that has closed with Election Day, may I remind you that as Hibernians we have a moral obligation, a religious duty, to oppose Abortion in all of its hideous forms. There are even those in our ranks that believe that they can maintain a "Pro-Choice" stance in regard to Abortion while remaining Catholic. The fact is that if you are a Catholic and you become complicit in an Abortion, you have excommunicated yourself from the Church and are in a state of Mortal Sin.

While there are many Catholic politicians who have tried to explain the inconsistencies of their religious beliefs with their political practices, by misrepresenting the Church's teachings on Abortion, or have even belligerently lied about what we believe as Catholics, the truth is that the Church has always condemned the murder of innocent human beings, and has considered aborting the unborn as a grave sin. Speaker Pelosi and Vice President Elect Biden are mistaken in their theology and understanding of basic Church doctrine when they insist on supporting Abortion. As Catholics they have separated themselves from Communion with Christ's Church here on earth and endanger their immortal souls throughout eternity; but that is their decision to make. God is truly Pro-Choice, either turn to Him and embrace Life, or commit yourself to Hell, the choice is yours. Any politician who claims to be a Catholic, or

for that matter a believer in the God of Abraham, divorces themselves from God when they vote in favor of Abortion; their "Pro-Choice" position places their scandalous behavior in the public forum and becomes a public renunciation of their Catholicism.

So where do we stand as Hibernians? As members of the AOH we are supposed to be Catholics in good standing. Being a Catholic in good standing means standing in union with our Bishops, as well as separating ourselves from any activities that would be considered antithetical to the teaching of the Church, especially practicing, endorsing or supporting abortions. For those members who believe in what we do as Hibernians, as Catholics, I would encourage you to make your way down to Washington D.C. to participate in the Right to Life March. Furthermore, it becomes your duty as Christian gentlemen to contact your political representatives and pressure them to follow Pro-Life principles when enacting legislation. For those brothers who feel that Abortion is something they can allow to continue, I would encourage them to pray for guidance, reflect on what the murders of 48 million children in the United States over 35 years means to them. If the deaths of more human beings than were killed in the Concentration Camps of Nazi Germany, the Eastern and Western Fronts and South Pacific during

WWII combined does not convince them that Abortion is evil, then I would encourage them to reconsider their membership not only in the AOH, but in the Catholic Church.

I look forward to seeing all of you in D.C. in January; perhaps this is the year that our prayer brings about the conversion needed to overcome this great evil.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Henry W. Reid

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Immediate  
Past President &  
Calendar Chairman

John Hennessy

I want to thank everyone who attended the last State Board meeting and the President's dinner.

It was a great honor to receive the prestigious Burns-Hayes award, and join the past recipients of the award Fr. John Ahern, Tom McNabb, Mike McCormack and Mike Kearney. I also want to congratulate worthy President Nelligan on his award, as well as Congressman McNulty and Congressman Walsh.

The NYS Hibernian calendars for 2009 have been distributed to the District Directors; the returns are slow in coming in. If you divide 25.00 by 365 the cost is less than 7 cents a day.

Remember you can't win it if you're not in it. If you don't know what to get someone for Christmas; why not a Hibernian calendar.

As of October 31, 2008 we have had 177 winners, total prizes totaling \$5075.00 Thank you for your support, we still have 2 months to go. Lets sell those calendars.

Margaret and I want to wish every one a very Happy Thanksgiving as well as a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas, a Happy and healthy New Year. Let's continue to pray for our troops. God Bless.

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## District 1

Robert Flaherty

As we enter the last quarter of the year, all divisions in the district are busy preparing for installations. On the state level, I went to the state board meeting on Oct.4th in Albany. There was also a dinner for the state president Matt Nelligan and a good time was had by all.

The Capital District Council held its quarterly meeting at the Schenectady AOH on Oct.25th. News and business of the order were exchanged and new ideas for better communication were put on the table. The Schenectady Degree Team is scheduling the major degrees at the Watervliet hall on Feb.8th. On Nov.11th there was a veterans dinner and vets ate for free. In Dec. there will be a breakfast with Santa for the children. On

Nov.15th the installation of officers will take place and mass will be at 6:00pm.

At Saratoga, the division had a golf outing that was very successful and a good time was had by all. On Oct.5th the division laid a wreath on the grave of Timothy Murphy. He was the man responsible for shooting a British General at the Battle of Saratoga. The Saratoga installation will be on Jan.8th at the Saratoga Elks. In Albany, I attended the Irish 2000 in Altamont. There were many new bands, as well as pipers and step dancers. It was nice to see so many brothers coming great distances for the event. On Nov.8th the division sponsored a concert for FFAI. On Dec.6th the division will hold their installation of officers.

Watervliet installation will be on Jan.11 and Troy's installation will be held on Dec.4th at St. Joseph Church.

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## District 2

Bill Powers

The Irish Community is looking forward to a Classic Irish Christmas show featuring Andy Cooney at the Lockport Palace Theatre,(716) 438-1130, on Dec. 10th at 7:30 pm. Proceeds from this will benefit Sister Helen's Pantry. Cost is \$20. Andy is certainly familiar to the Hibernians in the area. Other divisions are getting ready for their Christmas parties and election of officers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our fellow Hibernians and their families.

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## District 5

Al Donohue

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Thankfully not too much is happening in District 5. Martin Kelly of Division 35 in Kings County was recently elected as a National Director. Great Job Martin!!! I for one ran for Congress against Anthony Weiner, one of the most anti-life representatives in Congress and lost handily. Most of our calendars are sold and paid for. (Bet you thought that I forgot, eh John?)

I intend to attend the Queens County Ball Dinner Dance, on Saturday, November 15th, which is to be held at the Reception House in Flushing. Some of the honorees are: Brother Dennis Waters will be awarded the AOH Lifetime Medallion and Patrick Rooney, of Division 13, Bayside, will be presented the Harry S. Murphy Award. The AOH Hibernian of the year award recipient is Francis McLoughlin, Div. 13 Bayside.

The LAOH Lady of the year will be Bridget Kearney, Division 15. Whitestone and the LAOH Business of the year is Brian Dempsey's American Ale House and Restaurant. Many of the New York State officers also plan to attend this function. Everyone else is starting to get

ready for the election of new division officers, who will soon be voted on and sworn in. Life goes on here in the big city.

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## District 7

Tom Boslet

All District Seven Presidents, Officers, and I wish all of our Brothers and their families a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!! God Bless you all!

The Msgr. Donal O'Callaghan Division 1, Binghamton, Broome County: Worthy President Mark Kadlecik noted that the Division participated in the Broome County Ethnic Festival held in the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena in October. The AOH sponsored St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for March 7th, 2009. Meetings of Div 1 are held on the third Tuesday of the month. Binghamton's website is <http://www.bcaoh.com>

The Msgr. John Lee Division 1, Elmira, Chemung County: Worthy President John O'Herron noted that this year's Josh Palmer Golf Tournament raised over \$9,000.00 for cancer victims and their families. On October 18th the Shamrock Degree was held for three new Brothers. The Division held their 34th Annual Hibernian Beef Raffle on Nov. 7th. This is a major fund raiser for the Division which helps support youth sports activities. December 20th is the Children's

Christmas Party. The Division is preparing for the annual election of officers. AOH Div 1 meets the second Tuesday at 7pm. Elmira's website is <http://www.freewebs.com/elmiraahibernians>.

Sons of Ireland Division 1, Hornell, Steuben County: Worthy President Matt McAneney mentioned that the Sons of Ireland once again sponsored a Challenger Baseball Team, paying for uniforms and transportation. This league offers special needs children the opportunity to play baseball in the Hornell/Elmira area. Proceeds from last year's Irish Open Golf Tournament went to support the Hornell Youth Golf Program which offers area youth the opportunity to learn how to play golf and purchase equipment for those in need. The Sons of Ireland elected a new slate of Officers at their November meeting. They will be holding an Initiation and Installation of Officers on December 2nd. The AOH Division 1 meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Hornell's website is <http://www.freewebs.com/aohsonsofireland>.

Division 32, Oneonta, Otsego County: District Seven's newest Division had its Officers installed on September 9th. Unfortunately I was unable to be at the meeting. Present were National Secretary Tom McNabb, New York State President Matt Nelligan, NYS Secretary Mike McNabb and NYS Organizer

Liam McNabb. Also NYS Right to Life Chairman Leo Kane and Brother Bob Deemie from Binghamton Division 1 attended the installation. Worthy President Nelligan installed the new officers. I would like to thank NYS Organizer Liam McNabb for his efforts in starting Division 32. I wish Worthy President Bob Morrissey and his officers a successful and event filled administration. Division meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month.

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## District 8

Phil Sheridan

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. With the approaching holidays the Divisions around the District are busy with their respective activities.

Rockland County just hosted a Major Degree, Nov. 9th given by Tara Court team from Long Island, as always a great job and well attended.

Green County is looking for a supplier for a tent for the Church's summer activities. If anyone would have a good supplier would you please contact Tim O'Sullivan, Green Co. President, 96 Hibernian Road, Box 437, Route 145 Cairo, N.Y. 12413

Ulster Co: The Ancient Order of Hibernians Con Colbert Woulfe Division 1 in Ulster County announces a \$10,000 donation to Ulster County food pantries, in conjunction with the

dedication of a Celtic Cross monument remembering the thousands of Irish women, men and children who died in what is known as An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger), which took place between the years 1845-1850 in Ireland. Paid for by individual and private sources, the Cross will be dedicated on Saturday, October 25, 2008, beginning with a Mass at 11:00AM at St. Mary's Church on Broadway in Kingston, NY. After the Mass, the Celtic Cross will be dedicated on the grounds of St. Mary's.

In a unanimous vote, the Hibernians donated the \$10,000 to be used by food pantries in Ulster County to commemorate their commitment to the remembrance of Irish history by giving to the needy, in a very real way, in today's society. Plans are still in progress as to how to specifically disseminate to the individual pantries in Ulster County. Any and all inquiries may be directed to Hugh 'Bud' Halligan at (845) 658-8602 (hughfx@earthlink.net) or Bill Yosh at (845) 246-7195 (wsyosh@aol.com).

As always, may God Bless us in our work, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

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## Veterans Affairs

John M. Ryan

Hopefully those of you who have planned to send packages and cards to our GIs overseas already have them in the mail.

There is nothing like receiving a package from home. If you do not know anyone overseas I suggest that you make a Christmas contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project. You can mail a check to Wounded Warrior Project, National Processing Center, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Ks 66675-8516. You can also make a donation to Fisher House at Stratton VA Medical Center, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

Information for Veterans: There is a new addition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" by the Department of Veterans Affairs available. It updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American Veterans. In addition to describing benefits provided by the VA, the 153 page booklet provides an overview of programs and services for Veterans provided by other federal agencies. The booklet can be downloaded free at [va.gov/OPA/vadocs/current\\_benefits.asp](http://va.gov/OPA/vadocs/current_benefits.asp). The US Government Printing Office accepts credit card orders for the publication at 866 512-1800 for \$5 each to US addresses. Or, you can order by mail from the GPO at Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St Louis, Mo. Please continue to pray for our troops. God Bless America. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

## Political Education

Richard M. Morris

I continue to track and try to keep on top of issues crucial to our Catholic beliefs and continue to alert members and others in your communities about legislation they might not be aware of and what they may be able to do to stop bad legislation. I have been pro-active in matters such as the latest in-your-face action by the "Governor's Order" concerning same-sex marriage benefits. This issue, should have been left to the Legislature to decide. The Assembly, in a very close vote last year passed a same-sex marriage bill, District Assemblyman and Brother Hibernian Tom O'Mara of Elmira's John J. Lee Division, voted no on the bill. Did your elected representative vote no? Public opinion seems to be split on this issue and the Governor will continue to receive praise and support from those in support of his agenda. There is little hope for a legislative fix. Write your legislator and let them know your opposition. You can do this by going to [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org).

There are many groups which have expressed bringing legal action against Governor Paterson. I have been in contact with Allied Defense Fund Attorney Jim Campbell and in-turn put Jim in contact with State President Nelligan and I understand a meeting between the two may take place in the near future in Albany. AOH Attorney Tom

O'Donnell has been in contact with Jim also on matters concerning an amicus brief. We will keep track of legal actions and keep you informed.

The so-called "Healthy Teens Act" bill S.1342 written by Senator George Winner was released by the Senate Health Committee, chaired by Senator Kemp Hannon, would establish a new state funded sex education grant program to enable groups like Planned Parenthood to go into classrooms to promote contraception and abortion. I ask, did your representative vote in favor of or in opposition to this bill? You can find out by going to the aforementioned website.

I have searched the internet to find a voter's guide and found one that meets our requirements. A copy was attached to my October State Board Meeting Report and should have been picked up by your representative at the meeting. It is too late to vote

but ask him for a copy if you're interested.

On a final note, be aware of all the subtle and not so subtle Catholic bashing that is going on out there. If you consider yourself someone who is serious about his religion and you should, as a Hibernian Brother, I urge you to stand-up, speak-up on issues of questionable action, be pro-active, be a Hibernian. Isn't that why we were formed to protect our Priests and our

right to practice our faith? The secularists are making progress and not many are standing in their way. We must become involved

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## Organizer

Liam McNabb

### *"All Irish Need Apply"*

All is well on the organizing front. Otsego County Division 1 in Oneonta has been installed and is up and running as they initiate new members every month. We expect to see the new division at AOH events in coming months. Congratulations to the new officers and new President Bob Morrissey.

We have been meeting on a monthly basis with the interested group in Columbia County and expect more progress in the months ahead. Tim Carey, a member of Div. 5 Albany is from Columbia County and has been instrumental in our efforts in Hudson. We continue to promote the Order in an effort to attract new members in Johnstown (Fulton County), Elizabethtown (Essex County), and Owego (Tioga County). More recently, there is significant interest in organizing a new AOH Division in Geneva (Ontario County).

Congratulations to the recipients of the "Mid-Term" Membership awards that were presented at the October 4th State Board meeting in Albany. The

"Mid-Term" Membership program was presented and approved at the State Board meeting in Binghamton in October of 2007 to reward the top three divisions in New York State that increased their membership. The awards are based on net increase (raw numbers and not percentages) of members from 2006 to 2007. Of course, the "Mid-Term" Membership program was implemented to encourage divisions to recruit new members in their communities and continue to promote the Order. The recipients this year are:

1. Monsignor Donal O'Callaghan Division 1, Broome County
2. Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5, Albany County
3. John F Kennedy – Division 4 - Huntington, Suffolk County

If any divisions or county boards need recruitment materials, specifically our recruitment banner (with our 1-800 telephone number) or recruitment easels or posters, please feel free to contact me or Warren Scullin, Deputy State Organizer.

In closing, I encourage Brothers to contact me for more information about the recruitment and retention grant program as well as if anyone has organizing tips or areas of interest for organizing.

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Dan Dennehy  
Immigration

In spite of promises from President Elect Barack Obama and his opponent John McCain during the campaign, the state of the US economy may impede any major immigration reform for a while. This is occurring at the same time Ireland enters its worst recession in 25 years with unemployment at an 11-year high. Compounding matters, enforcement of current US immigration law has caused many undocumented Irish waiting for reform to be caught in the broader illegal immigration enforcement net.

Fortunately, the Irish have two small options for legal entry to the US. First, the DV Lottery Program is open until Dec. 1, 2008. This is a permanent visa lottery and the Irish have only secured a handful each year due to overwhelming demand from countries with larger populations.

The J1 program has been modified for 20000 Irish and 5000 American college students to visit each other's countries for up to 12 months to live and work as a form of cultural exchange.

Please go to The Emerald Isle Immigration Center at [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org) to see details on these and other immigration issues. Subject titles on home page New Work and Travel Agreement with the US and DV

Lottery PRESS RELEASE October 29, 2008

Before attempting to apply for a new visa, it is strongly urged that undocumented Irish people should seek advice from trusted and confidential organizations like the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, other member organizations of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org) or the Irish Consulate email: [congenny@aol.com](mailto:congenny@aol.com).

The issue of deportees like Pol Brennan is very important to Hibernians. Have your members get more information at <http://polbrennan.com/> and sign the petition found there.

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F.F.A.I.

Frank Corcoran

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are coming close to the end of the 2008 campaign. To all who have sent in their donations, we thank you for giving to such a worthy cause.

I'm very proud to be a member of New York State Hibernians. NYS AOH gave the largest contribution to the Christmas Appeal in 2007. The Christmas Appeal was a big success for 2007. However still only 20% of Divisions and Counties contributed in 2007 and contributions were down 20% from 2006. I know we all want to do better.

I ask all of you to rededicate yourselves to Christmas Appeal and set a goal of 100% participation by all divisions and county boards and to raise \$20,000 in 2008. We ask that every Division and County give a donation of \$1 per member, and at least \$100. If this happens we will meet our goal.

The people of the 6 Counties that this appeal benefits gave much for the cause of Irish Freedom. They and their families have the physical and emotional scars from days in prison and internment and the tortures of the Brits. And now their government treats them as common criminals. The AOH has supported them magnificently in the past. Without them there would be no Good Friday Agreement, no Peace, and no Government with Sinn Fein sharing power. It is up to us not to turn our backs to them now. It is an obligation on our part to do all we can to help make their lives a little better. Our support has made life better in the North, let's continue that effort. See Gerry Adams remarks below.

Please donate as generously as you can. Checks made out to AOH-Christmas Appeal. Donations should be sent to:

Sean Pender  
National FFAI Chair  
13 Scullin Dr  
Yardville, NJ 08620

## HAPPENINGS IN THE NORTH

Joe Biden, US VP elect has been credited by some as being one chief reason that the Peace Process was begun. We all hope that the Obama/Biden Presidency is favorable to the goal of peaceful and a United Ireland, 32 counties, free at last.

Michael Stone has been found guilty at Belfast Crown Court today of attempting to murder Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness in an armed attack on the Northern Ireland parliament.

The 53-year-old former UDA member was convicted at Belfast Crown Court of the incident at Stormont in November 2006 when he stormed the building, while the Assembly was in session, armed with explosives and other weapons.

Mr Stone claimed his actions at Stormont were all part of an elaborate performance art display. -RTE

The trial of murder victim Michael 'Mickey-Bo' McIlveen has heard how the Catholic school-boy was "nailed" with a baseball bat — swung at times like a golf club — and kicked up to 60 times.

The claims were made by a friend of the 15-year-old in a video-taped police interview, who also told of his vain attempts to save him from a drunken sectarian mob.

The tape was played yesterday at the Antrim Crown Court trial of six young Ballymena youths facing charges arising out of the murder of McIlveen who died

from head injuries in hospital the day after he was chased and attacked in an alleyway on May 7, 2006. - RTE

An Armagh couple has spoken of their disgust after being told by staff at a well-known chain store that it would "not sell anything Irish".

Civil servant Ciaran Girvan was shopping with his wife in Armagh yesterday when they called into Woolworths to buy a new RTE tribute DVD about The Dubliners.

However, a female shop assistant told the couple that the store did not and would not stock the DVD "because it's Irish". She also told them Woolworths was a British store that did not sell anything Irish. - RTE

The British Army paraded in Belfast recently. Disguised as a "Homecoming Parade", the parade was really a show that the Brits are still in control in the North. Gordon Brown would not dare hold such a parade in London, so why do it in Belfast? Time for them to go home. Slan abhaile.

The executive of the Stormont Government remains deadlocked over the DUPs refusal to deal with two issues, Courts/Policing and the Irish Language Act. Martin McGuinness rightfully will not meet with them until they are willing to agree to enforce the GFA which they signed on to in

2006. The executive has not met since June. Intensive talks continue and it is hoped that a planned meeting by Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson on the justice / policing issue may bring a breakthrough.

## GERRY ADAMS

Speaking at the annual New York City fundraiser Gerry Adams had these remarks:

"Once unionism dominated life in the North. That has all changed, largely as a result of the efforts of Sinn Féin, but also with the help of you in this room and many others across the United States."

"Today, if political unionism wants to exercise power it can only do so if it is prepared to work in partnership with republicans and within the all Ireland political architecture of the Good Friday and St. Andrews Agreements."

"Some elements of unionism continue to resist change. But for the leadership of unionism today the question is very simple. Is it ready to move forward with the rest of us? Everything hinges on the answer to this simple question."

"Partnership, equality and working together is the only way forward for our people. And when I say our people, I mean all our people, and that includes the unionists. It is my strong view that decent, pragmatic unionists will come to terms with the new dispensation. And why wouldn't they?"

"There are many old friends, who have been very supportive

over the years and who have been returned to office. There are also many new names and new faces who have been elected for the first time. "Sinn Féin's task in the time ahead is to engage with all of your political leaders. Irish America, which has always played a pivotal role also has a big job of work ahead of it. Irish America now has the task of engaging with the new Federal and state and local administrations and making sure that the issue of peace and justice and freedom in Ireland are high on their agenda. "Irish America and Sinn Féin now have to work together as never before to maximise this opportunity and to build on the solid progress of achievement that has been made. Many of those now in elected office are open to our efforts.....

"In this nation there already exist cultural, sporting and civic society organisations, as well as business and trade union organisations, who support Irish freedom. So, in any strategy to achieve a United Ireland we need the Irish diaspora, and we want to inspire its political strength in support of our goals.

"None of this will happen by chance. Irish unity makes sense, politically and economically and historically but it won't happen of its own volition. We have to make it happen. We need organisation. We need hard work and strategies.

"The road map is clear. Sinn Féin – Irish republicanism – is looking forward. Irish republi-

cans have a vision of a new future for Ireland, a better future for Ireland and we have the spirit and confidence to work with others to achieve this. We are living through a time of great hope, and great opportunity and with the help of our friends here in the USA the goals of Irish freedom and independence will be won."

#### Bloody Sunday 2009.

There has been much speculation that the Saville/Bloody Sunday inquiry will finally report on its results in the second half of this year. We can only pray the there will finally be some justice for those that were murdered on the day.

It may be possible that if the release of these results are of good judgment that the families of the Bloody Sunday victims may use 2009 as the last march. Moving forward different types of commemorations would be planned. Again this is just speculation at this time, but it may be the last year to attend the march as it is now constituted. Therefore we have made arrangements with Coiste in Belfast regarding the 2009 AOH Bloody Sunday tour. The trip will start in Belfast and include transportation, lodging and most meals in the North. Air fare would be up to the individuals. Space is limited so space will only be held based on receipt of non refundable deposits. This trip is open to all AOH and LAOH members and guests. Availability is limited

to first 50 paid travelers. The full itinerary and application can be found on the NY AOH website at [http://www.nyaoh.com/Events/bloody\\_sunday\\_trip\\_102808.pdf](http://www.nyaoh.com/Events/bloody_sunday_trip_102808.pdf)

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## Right to Life

Leo Kane

I was very pleased with the Pro-Life Mass, Aug. 4th in Albany. Special thanks to Father Henry Reid and Tim Mc Sweeney and to everyone who helped make this Mass successful. I also would like to thank St. Mary's Church for the use of the church, and allowing us to use their ancient antiques, (the Celtic Cross and Argillites), and their vestments that are used for special occasions.

As we know, "Respect Life", encompasses many needs; the pre-born, adoption, caring of the children with special needs and end of life care. We would like to know what the NYS AOH Divisions and or individuals are doing in regards to Pro-Life, so, we can acknowledge their Pro-Life accomplishments. In an effort to make sure everyone is aware of the program, this is the criteria: 1. This award will be given out at each NYS Convention, 2. It will be known as, "Our Lady Of Knock Queen Of Ireland Award". 3. Selection committee will consist of, NYS President, NYS Pro-Life Chair, and three other members at large will be selected by the NYS President. 4. Nominees

can be individuals or divisions within NYS who exemplifies Pro-Life Issues. 5. The nominees will be collected by the NYS Pro-Life Chair. All nominations must be in by April 1st of the year of the State Convention. 6. The selection committee will pick the award winner during the month of May prior to the convention. 7. The first place individuals or division will receive a statue of "The Lady Of Knock". 8. The five runner-ups will be honored by a certificate. 9. The NYS Board shall pay for the travel, lodging expenses and the award night dinner for the winner or a representative of a division, if a division wins. Send a letter (concise as possible) to the NYS Pro-Life Chairman. This can be mailed to me @AOHLeo@aol.com, or mailed to Leo Kane, 76 N. Sunset Drive, Kirkwood, N.Y .13795; accepting for 2008 and 2009 immediately.

There will be a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Jan. 18, 2009, in NYC, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; watch for further information regarding the time and how much the AOH will be involved. It would be nice if the AOH could come and support the Knights of Columbus at their Pro-Life Mass.

On Jan. 22, 2009 the 36 annual March For Life March, in Washington, DC will be held. For those able to go, there will be a mass on Jan, 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of

the Immaculate Conception, at 700 pm. Prior to the march on the 22nd, there will be a Pro-Life Breakfast at the corner of 5th and H Street, at the Irish Channel Restaurant. After breakfast, (which is from 8 to 11) it is a short walk to the 10:00 am mass at the Verizon Center. After this mass we will gather at Constitution and 15th for the march. I am presently having signs made up for the NYS AOH. I can be Reached concerning any changes or questions on my cell, 607-7608390.

Please read, the letter on the National AOH web-site sent by our National President, Seamus Boyle to President-elect, Obama. It speaks on the AOH position on pro-life.

## Catholic Action

Daniel Case

We are once again faced with an attack against our faith as Roman Catholics!! The Rattlestick Theater ;( 224 Waverly Pl New York, NY 10014 Phone 212-627-2556, FAX 630-839-8352, email info@rattlestick.org); is presently showing a blasphemous play called CORPUS CHRISTI which the Christ like figure has homosexual relations with His Apostles!!

Both President Matt Nelligan and I have discussed this and agree that in America we have the right to show such trash as this, we also have the right not

to support them by frequenting their plays. I must ask the members to boycott this play as long as the Rattlestick Theater is showing it!!.

The following is a sample of the letters and emails we should send.

As a member of the Ancient order of Hibernians, and a practicing Roman Catholic I vehemently protest you showing the blasphemous play CORPUS CHRISTI, which includes a Christ-like figure who reportedly has sexual relations with His Apostles. The Person of Jesus Christ is Sacred and untouchable. To portray Him as a homosexual or even insinuate it, is an unspeakable blasphemy which our organization rejects outright!!

We ask that you immediately cancel this production, and offer a public apology to all Catholics via the news media.

On another subject of interest as we approach this Holy Season of Christmas, a few things that you should know. According to The American Family Association the Home Depot has banned the word "CHRISTMAS" from its web site and in place put "HOLIDAYS". What is interesting is that Home Depot has gifts for "HANUKKAH" but not a single reference to Christmas can be found on their web site, NOT ONE. I guess that Christmas does not exist at Home Depot? Brothers please email, write or call

Chairman Frank Blake of Home Depot to protest this injustice, and tell him that Christmas does exist in the hearts of many. Email:frank\_blake@homedepot.com, write: 2455 Paces Ferry Rd. Atlanta GA. 30339, Call: 1-800-466-3337, option #3 or 1-800-430-3376.

I have had a donation of 200 buttons, from the American Family Association, that say "IT'S OK TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS" with the manger and the Holy Family below. Brothers that would like one of these 1 3/4 inch buttons, please send me your name and address.

## Historian

Mike McCormack

We are in the final stages of a DVD on the Great Hunger which is being prepared for NY State schoolteachers at the request of President Nelligan. Hopefully it will convince more of our teachers to bring the subject into their classrooms. The DVD should be available by the start of the January-September term.

We are still preparing a monthly reading of Irish History on both the national website and the NY State website. In each case all previous months' histories going into an archive area where they will still be available. I will now be adding a third monthly history to the new Hibernian Digest website which will be up and running shortly. The old mailing list is no more. I will maintain a mailing list of

those who have no access to a computer or the Internet and I will a history column in the state newsletter which is also on the net.

Retention of members is an issue in this Order, and I believe that a man never quit something he was proud to be a part of. That's the job of our Historians – to make him proud. If you make a man proud of being Irish, you've created a Hibernian. Another problem is recruitment among those with Irish names who know nothing about their history. You can't recruit someone if he doesn't even know where Ireland is. And that's another reason why history is so important. We must raise the banner of education among our people again. And the place to start is with our children.

In addition to the monthly readings on Irish history, we are still involved in judging the state competitions for National History Day with the assistance of State Scholarship Chairman brother Tom Conway. We provide awards to the students who excel in entries on Irish topics. We copied videos of five previous award-winning entries on one DVD and a limited number are available for only \$10 each. We now have a second video with 7 more presentations. They are not only great for showing at Division meetings, but for Junior Divisions as well. Every Division should have one in their library. All profits go to

maintaining our commitment to National History Day at state and national levels.

For families, we still have reprints of the original Hibernian condolence certificates used around the turn of the century to present to the grieving family of a deceased brother and we have reprints of the original membership certificates. If your historians have anything significant on local history to share with the brothers in your Divisions, let's share it with all the brothers; send me a copy to distribute. Credit will always be given to the author. And remember, it's your heritage – defend it by building the AOH and keeping the traditions alive.

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## Scholarship

Thomas Conway

If you have a High School Senior in your family, he or she is probably now looking at college possibilities. It is advisable to plan now to apply for the New York State Board's Austin V. Carew State Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving student whose parent/guardian is an active member and who has taken the Major Degree. In June 2009, the student must sit for our scholarship exam which tests knowledge of Irish History. In addition the student's SAT scores are also considered in determining the recipient of the scholarship.

It would be helpful if all Division Presidents bring the following information to the attention of their members regarding the scholarship:

- 1) Parents or Guardians of the student must have taken the Major Degree.
- 2) Student must take our Irish History exam.
- 3) Student SAT scores must be provided.
- 4) Recommendation of your parish priest must accompany the application.
- 5) The application must be completed and returned by Friday, May 15th.

The scholarship is funded by the James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament, which will be held this spring in East Durham on May 1st. Plan now for the golf outing to help support this endeavor and enjoy a day on the links. What a great combination!

Full details on the scholarship will be in the March issue of the [Empire Hibernian](#).

## NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee 2009 Scholarship

Every year the AOH New York State Board joins the many thousands of marchers participating in the NY City Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

This parade, the largest in the world, has been held continu-

ously since 1762. It honors the Patron Saint of Ireland and celebrates the faith and traditions of our people.

An additional benefit of our State Board's affiliation with the Parade is each NY AOH member in good standing has the opportunity to sponsor applicants for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee Scholarship. Awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Information for the 2009 scholarship is as follows, additional information on the Parade and scholarship may be found on the official website [www.nyc-st-patrick-day-parade.org](http://www.nyc-st-patrick-day-parade.org)

### 1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CONTEST CALENDAR – FRANCIS P. BEIRNE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

1.1 College Level Research Paper Contest – Applicants must be either undergraduate or graduate students matriculated at accredited colleges, universities, schools of nursing, medical centers, or business schools, which have paid their 2009 affiliation fee to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee.  
OR

*Such students who are family members of any person belonging to an organization which has paid its 2009 affiliation fee to the St. Patrick's Day Parade*

*and Celebration Committee.* (Family members may include son, daughter, spouse, brother, sister, niece, nephew, grandchild, grandniece, grandnephew and great grandchild.)

1.2 The official application form must be filed and postmarked no later than  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

1.3 Applicants must have completed and postmarked their research paper no later than  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009.

1.4 Research Paper contest winners will be announced by Friday, May 9, 2009.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & CONTEST CALENDAR – MARGARET O'ROURKE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

2.1 High School Level Research Paper Contest – Applicants must be in attendance at a high school that has paid its 2009 affiliation fee to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee.  
OR

*Such students who are family members of any person belonging to an organization which has paid its 2009 affiliation fee to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee.* (Family members may include son, daughter, spouse, brother, sister, niece, nephew, grandchild, grandniece, grandnephew and great grandchild.)

2.2 The official application form must be filed and post-marked no later than MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009.

2.3 Applicants must have completed and postmarked their research papers no later than MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009.

2.4 Research Paper contest winners will be announced by May 9, 2009.

### 3. INDIVIDUAL – FRANCIS P. BEIRNE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

3.1 The first, second, and third place winners will receive individual prizes of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively.

### 4. INDIVIDUAL – MARGARET O’ROURKE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

4.1 The first, second, and third place winners will receive individual prizes of \$1,200, \$800, and \$500.

### 5. METHOD OF ADJUDICATION

5.1 A number of raters, who will not be provided with any identifying information regarding the names of the applicants or their affiliation, will independently rate each paper, based upon standards established by the members of the Scholarship Committee, St. Pat-

rick’s Day Parade and Celebration Committee.

### 6. TOPIC & MANNER OF PRESENTATION – FRANCIS P. BEIRNE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

6.1 TOPIC – “The Irish American Community as Depicted in Literature: A True Picture or a Distortion?”

6.2 A minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 typewritten pages double spaced, standard one inch margins, with accompanying bibliography, are necessary to satisfy requirements.

### 7. TOPIC & MANNER OF PRESENTATION – MARGARET O’ROURKE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

7.1 TOPIC – “On the Playing Field and Beyond: The Irish Contributions to American Sports”

7.2 A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 typewritten pages, double spaced, standard one inch margins, with accompanying bibliography, are necessary to satisfy requirements.

### 8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 The St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Celebration Scholarship Committee for 2008 is comprised of the following members: John Lahey, Chair-

person, Deborah Shea, Rosemary Lombard, Ann Garvey, John Garvey, Hilary Beirne, Patricia Mannion, Mary Holt Moore, Robert Liftig, John Ridge Janice Crisci and Bridget Higgins.

8.2 It shall be understood that no award from this scholarship contest shall cause any other financial aid received by any students to be in any way diminished.

8.3 All entries become the property of the Scholarship Committee.

8.4 If there are any additional questions, contact the Chairperson, John Lahey. Office: (203) 582-8744 or (203) 582-8700. Email: Scholarship@NYC-St-Patrick-Day-Parade.Org

All are encouraged to publicize the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Scholarship contests, and to duplicate this announcement and the application, in order that the maximum number of eligible students might avail themselves of this opportunity.

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The deadline for the March 2009 issue of The Empire State Hibernian is February 15, 2009. All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are encouraged to contribute.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

Applications must be postmarked no later than MONDAY, April 6, 2009

Papers must be postmarked no later than MONDAY, April 6, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

University, College or High School in which the entrant is enrolled

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Principal or Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of family member belonging to an organization affiliated with the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Entrant \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application and paper to: John L. Lahey  
Scholarship Contest  
AB-PRS  
Quinnipiac University  
275 Mount Carmel Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

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