

Officer Jack Duffy Division “Laochra Na Maobrh” Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 6– Montgomery County

President’s Message

Officers

- President:** Patrick Bethel
- Chaplain:** Rev. Robert Mulligan
- Vice President:** Kevin Curry
- Recording Secretary:** Jim McGibbon
- Treasurer:** Mike Brown
- Financial Secretary:** Harry Ench
- Marshall:** Bob Shelton
- Sentinel:** Jim Roberts
- Standing Committee:** Paul McPeake
- Historian:** John McGettigan
- Charities:** Steve Brady
- Culture:** Jim McGibbon
Paul McPeake
- Pro-life/Catholic Action**
 - Rev. Robert Mulligan

Dear Brothers,

This is the first official publication of our new AOH Officer Jack Duffy Division 6, Montgomery County. As most of you know, our Division was chartered on Saturday, July 11th at Ortino’s Northside Restaurant in Zieglersville. For those who were in attendance, I think all would agree that the day couldn’t have gone any better. Sixteen new members were in attendance as well as a number of members who have since transferred into our Division. Special thanks to the AOH County and State Officials who presided over the ceremony as well as members from Divisions 1, 2 and 4 who supported us with their presence. Also in attendance were Officer Duffy’s mother–Peg, brother, Kevin, and sister Gerry.

Officer Duffy died in the line of duty on December 10, 1983. He was 22 years old at the time of his death.

Our Division honors Officer Duffy as well as all fallen police officers, firemen and members of our armed forces. Hence our use of “Laochra Na Maobrh” under our Division name and whose Irish translation reads “Fallen Heroes”.



Faternally,

Patrick Bethel

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Thank You

Dear Patrick,

Just want you to know how much we all appreciate your group’s kindness in naming the new Hibernian Chapter under Jack’s name. I don’t know much about the chapters, but I was very proud to be with yours along with Kevin and Gerry.

I apologize for not making my “thank you” to everyone a little clearer as I spoke. It was a lovely day that I will always remember. Good Luck with your chapter and success with everything you want to accomplish. Please accept this donation to help start the ball rolling. *Peg Duffy*

Join the Officer Jack Duffy Founders Club

To assist in defraying the initial costs associated with starting a new division of the AOH, we are offering members the opportunity become part of our Founders Club. The Founders Club is made up of members who typically have donated \$100 to support us financially and enable us to purchase items such as a Division banner, parade flags, a Post Office Box to receive our mail etc.

Since we recognize that making such a financial outlay in 1 lump sum might be a challenge given the economic situation, we are allowing members who'd like to be part of this group up until 12/31/09 to make this donation.

Contact Mike Brown to make a donation or get additional information.

Current Founders

Patrick Bethel
 Steve Brady
 Mike Brown
 Mike Connolly
 Kevin Curry
 Steve Everly
 Joe Garvey
 Joe McCahon
 Jim McGibbon
 Paul McPeake - \$200
 Jim Roberts
 Bob Shelton



1st Annual Golf Outing Survives Soggy Start

Your AOH Officer Jack Duffy Division held its 1st Annual Golf Outing at Lederach Golf Club this past August. Forty golfers braved early downpours in Irish-like weather conditions and managed to get all 18 holes in. Congratulations to Kristin Hazard for winning Longest Drive and the Team of James Comer, Rahman Miller, Eric Piersol and AOH brother Dave Roberts for winning the Logo Ball Tournament with a score of 84. They actually tied the Shaughnessey foursome who also had an 84 but the latter lost when they went to the hole

handicaps. Team Shaughnessey was anchored by 3 Shaughnessey brothers who also happen to be AOH brothers.

This year debuted the \$10,000 Hole In One Prize at Hole #7. 34 golfers took a shot at winning the big prize but all came up empty... much to the delight of insurance company representatives at the course. This proved to be a big money maker for the Division with \$340 netted as a result of the golfers futility.

Thank the Irish for Your Labor Day Weekend

Second only to St. Patrick's Day, Labor Day is the day born out of the Irish American experience. The first took place on September 5th, 1882 when thousands of New York City workers took the day off to participate in festivities honoring honest toil and the rights of labor. Its immediate success testified to labors rising power and growing sense of unity in the Gilded Age. It also exemplified the central role played by Irish workers in the labor movement of that era. It was also an Irishman who first

proposed the idea of establishing in early September "a festive day for a parade through the streets of the city". Yet the precise identity of that Irishman remains a mystery. Some say it was Peter "PJ" McGuire, General Secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Others argue it was machinist Matthew Maguire who deserves the title of "Father of Labor Day".

October 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Degrees		Officers Meeting				Dinner
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		General Meeting				

Schedule of Events

- 9/29— General Meeting @ 7:30 PM at Limerick Golf Club
- 10/11—Major Degrees @ 10:30 AM at Firefighters Hall at 5th & Willow in Philadelphia. **Dan Cline-Vice President Division 22 (610) 420-5973 Mulclean619@Comcast.net**
- 10/13—Officers Meeting @ 7:30 PM at Limerick Golf Club
- 10/17—AOH Mass f& Dinner @ Fr. Bob Mulligan's Parish. Mass is 5:00 PM
- 10/27—General Meeting @ 7:30 PM at Limerick Golf Club

The *First* Supper

You have all heard of The Last Supper of course. Have you heard of The First Supper? Well, The First Supper refers to an upcoming mass and dinner we have planned for Saturday, October 17th at Fr. Bob Mulligan's Parish. That's right, we are moving our couples' night out down to our Chaplain's crib at Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Airy!

The night will begin with Mass at 5 PM followed by dinner in the rectory which we are told is a grand old building.

This will be a fully catered dinner buffet and BYOB. We expect the dinner to include a choice of 3 different entries, vegetable and dessert - all for only \$20 per person!

To reserve a spot for you and your significant other for what should be a great time, please contact Patrick Bethel at aohguy@verizon.net or at 610-287-8028!

Pope John Paul II High School Scholarship Approved

Construction continues at the new Pope John Paul II High School in Limerick which will serve as the new school for existing students at Kennedy - Kenrick and Pope Pius X High Schools beginning with the 2010 school year.

The new High School will be a state-of-the-art facility. However, such will result in students paying \$1,000 more per year than the normal Archdiocesan high school tuition. In an effort to help where we can and to support the school, your AOH Division approved sponsoring an annual scholarship of \$500 to the in-coming student who wins an essay contest that we will offer to students within the feeder parishes within our local community including St. Eleanor, St. Mary, Sacred Heart and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Further details of the scholarship program remain to be worked about our Charities Officer Steve Brady but we expect to get the essay contest going early in 2010.

For those interested, the new high school will include more than 30 modern classrooms; five science laboratories; three computer laboratories, a library/media resource center, full air-conditioning and a modern security access and surveillance system. Additionally, the school will also have a television studio; a large fine arts center featuring two art studios and choral/band rooms; a large chapel, a 432-seat cafeteria; a 1200-seat auditorium; a 1000-seat main gymnasium, an auxiliary gymnasium and a fitness center, six competition level sports fields, and a running track with an all-weather surface



Seal of the new High School currently under construction in Limerick

Division Merchandise

At the Green Lane Irish Festival we debuted our new Division T-Shirts which are now available for sale for \$15 to Division members. The new shirts are white with the AOH National Logo on the front left and our Division Logo on the back with our name and motto on the top and bottom of the logo, respectively. Be sure to bring an extra \$15 to our next meeting so that you can get your own shirt.

Stay tuned for information regarding the purchase of new Division jackets. We expect these to be a style similar to jackets worn by the other Divisions except that ours will be black with green lettering and our logo and motto on the back. Our goal is to keep the price as close to \$100 as possible.

Chaplain's Message - Reverend Robert Mulligan

My Brothers,

I am not particularly one who enjoys "rap" music, but I do have a certain fondness for the music of Father Stan Fortuna, cfr, a New York City priest who is a member of Father Benedict Groeschel's order. His ministry is one to the teens of the city and he uses his music ministry to reach them. One of his songs is entitled, "Everybody Got To Suffer." In this song he writes, *"You think that you're the only one that's gotta suffer; you think you're the only one with pain to suffer (everybody) everybody's gotta thing they gotta suffer (rich or poor) rich or poor it don't matter, gotta suffer."* This is the Gospel message that we heard about last week and continues in today's readings. However, the presentation comes to us as an invitation to serve rather than an inhumane reality to avoid.

Immediately upon being told that *"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise,"* due to their lack of understanding, the apostles basically dismiss these predictions and continue in their vein of thinking about the establishment of a new world-order power and who would be the greatest or most important among them. It is at this time that Jesus introduces, of all things, an analogy about service and children. At first glance this may seem like a very disconnected way of avoiding a difficult issue. But what we discover in the ancient text is that the Aramaic word for child and for servant is the same. By placing a child in their midst, therefore, Jesus enacts a parable in which the disciples, in their being called to service, identify with the humble child.

In the cultural milieu of Jesus' day, calculations of what honor was due to each person permeated social life. The topic of the disciples' discussion was, therefore, not a particularly vain or unusual one. It is the response of Jesus that is unusual. His insistence on service as the way of discipleship, and indeed as the only true form of greatness, is the outstanding message of this passage. Children in this venue, would be least of all citizens and thereby, the role of a servant or slave would be equally as insignificant. One could even therefore safely suggest that service to another would not be a priority in an adult's life.

What it comes down to is that by Baptism believers are incorporated into Christ and given their vocation to a life of service, accepting this call in a child-like manner, not childish. The gentleness of Christ to this child, becomes the evident manner through which our service must be rendered. *"Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.'"* In other words, whoever accepts a servant that I send receives God Himself. And bringing this image full-circle, we must remember that all of us image God and He desires to send us to each other; thereby desiring us all to receive God. But since humble service requires personal sacrifice or selfless giving to others, a real felt sense of suffering may be required.

For instance, a person may have a low self-esteem and has been advised to help others as a way of getting

out of negative thinking. And so they head off for the nearest soup kitchen to serve. But if their service amounts solely to a way of alleviating their own suffering, then their service is usury of another person's poverty to accomplish a false sense of self-worth. However, if a person desires to feel a solidarity with a poorer person as a member of the human race and wishes to see Christ radiate in his or her face and then proceeds to the soup kitchen, that person will see the face of God and will serve out of love. We are reminded of another scripture passage from St. Matthew's Gospel, *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. And the opposite, "Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life" (Mt. 25: 40 ff).*

Real service therefore means creating solidarity with the one's we serve. It is allowing another to know their personal dignity by allowing them to know that they are not alone, even if for a fleeting moment. Real service gives and does not take. It is a gift to be given and not to be received. True, when we are able to reach this level, we are granted an interior satisfaction that elevates our own humanity, but only if it is real. True service is not an easy thing to accomplish because it requires a mortal blow to our egos.

Only a view towards the eternal allows us to reach this level since it is God Himself who inspires all good works. In fact, a litmus test for service is not how many accolades we receive for our actions, but perhaps how insignificant we can allow ourselves to become because of them. Can we find it within ourselves to totally disappear as a person for the sake of all the others? Talk about dying to oneself; perhaps we all should reflect upon the *"Prayer of St. Francis": Lord, make me an instrument of Thy 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.* Real service hurts; it involves suffering. But real suffering is redemptive and already has its reward built in.