



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

INCORPORATED
Organized in New York City, May 4, 1836

JOSEPH DUELK, JR. DIVISION NO. 1

P. O. Box 337, Monroe (Orange County), New York 10950

Vol. 30 No. 1 Newsletter / Ad Journal

January 2010

Editor — Joseph McMahon - 764-0772



Next Meeting — Friday, January 8 • 7:30 p.m.
Paddy Naughton Hall, 10 North Main Street, Monroe • (845) 783-0205
JOSEPH DUELK, JR. — Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C.
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DIVISION 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National March for Life Friday, January 22
Traditional Irish Music Seisiún Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Kids Movie Night Third Friday of the Month
Irish Rebel Song/Karaoke Night Third Friday of the Month

DIVISION NO. 1 WEBSITE • <http://aohdiv1.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

On behalf of the new Executive Board, we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

We were pleased to have New York State Board officer Kevin Cummings attend our December meeting and perform the installation ceremony for the new Board.

While we look forward to a new year before us, I would like to also remember the six members who passed away in 2009 — William Walsh, Frank Ellsworth, John Conroy, Thomas Keilty, Edward Flood and John Hall. Worthy members who will be missed. May they Rest in Peace.

I would be remiss if my first message did not include a very large and heartfelt Thank You to our Worthy outgoing President Brendan O'Dowd. Brendan's tireless efforts on behalf of our organization before, during and hopefully after his ten-

ure as President should be an inspiration to all our membership. He has been active in the Right to Life movement, the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform as well as organizing fund raising for the local Soup Kitchen in Monroe. The latter was done in conjunction with LAOH Division 5 with whom he formed a working relationship that will benefit our own Division in the years to come.

That was only one part of his legacy. The other part is readily apparent to anyone who comes to the door of the Hall. The work and hours he put in just on the outside Foyer alone would be enough to get a gigantic lifetime of thanks. He then decided to do the inside of the Hall as well and it looks absolutely fantastic, no surprise there. Those are the last two projects he worked on, there have been numerous others but it's hard to remember all the good he has done over the last few years and I have a pretty good

memory.

He truly exemplifies our motto and his leadership has been an inspiration to anyone who has had the honor of working with him.

That being said I would like to thank Lorraine O'Dowd for sharing Brendan's time with our division. Even though Lorraine supports our Division, as well as being an officer and founding member of LAOH Division 5, we need to recognize that she has been behind Brendan in his efforts on our behalf and has made sacrifices for our benefit as well.

Our annual Children's Christmas Party was held on December 20th at the Hall and was once again a success. The weather cooperated and our Worthy Vice President Keith Reynolds donned the red suit once again. The food was prepared by Dennis Browne, another tireless servant of our Division. Thanks to all who helped

(Continued on page 3)

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See Bar committee.



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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

make this event an enjoyable day.

By the time of this publication the Annual Adult Holiday party will have been held on January 2, 2010. I look forward to reporting on another great night with great people at our Hall in next month's newsletter.

I don't know a lot of Gaelic but when I learn some appropriate words I will try to incorporate them into my messages but for now . . . God Bless, Be Well and Hope to see you soon,

John O'Grady

Hall Rental

If you want to book the Hall for a Communion party for 2010 . . . or for any other event, such as: Confirmation . . . Sweet 16 . . . 21st Birthday . . . Retirement . . . etc. please contact Dennis: 774 9436

2010 Dues

It is time to get your Dues in for the upcoming year.

We need to submit our per capita assessments to the NY State AOH by January 31st to avail of a discount of 50 cents per member. The money saved would go to our division treasury. Conversely, those postmarked after March 31st will be charged a 50 cent per member late fee. Please help save the Division money by paying your dues early.


Hire a Hibernian

(leave your card at the Hall)

We are blessed at Division 1 with a lot of members who are Police Officers and Firemen. Every now and then however, we do get a tradesman. We have Realtors, Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters, Tile Setters, Stone Masons, Auto Mechanics . . . we have accountants . . . and we even have a barber. You may need your hair cut, or your car tuned up . . . or you might want a job done at your house. Please consider using the services of a fellow Hibernian. However, if you are being robbed, or your house is on fire, call 911 . . . you just might get one of our own.

A Happy

New Year

March for Life

PRO - LIFE

On Friday, January 22nd, the annual March for Life will take place in Washington, DC. There are several bus trips being planned from local churches including Sacred Heart in Monroe. Please make an effort to make the trip to defend the unborn babies.

For more information, please contact: Tommy Flynn at TommyFlynn@optonline.net

History: The Original Kilmainham Madonna

(Continued from page 4)

Museum officials were understandably perplexed. How could they tell the public that they had been viewing the wrong version of the Madonna all this time? But it was not a deception, for the version they reproduced was a sincere effort to recreate that historic artifact. In truth, it was only through the Museum's continuing efforts that the true Madonna was finally found. Because of my close involvement with the project, I received a copy of the sketch, and asked Mr. Pat Cooke, museum curator, for permission to publish it. When all is said and done, history must be served, and I thank Mr. Cooke

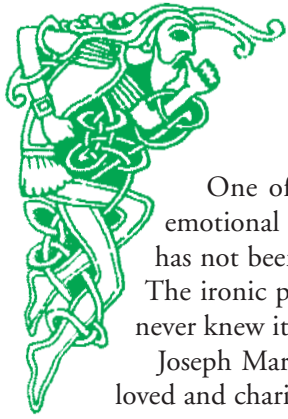
for allowing this story, and the picture of the true Madonna to be published. How will the issue of the two Madonnas be resolved? We don't know, but since both are beautiful and both were done by the same remarkable lady, both deserve to be seen. Perhaps one can remain on display in the main hall, while the other is reproduced in the restored cell where Grace was actually held, when that section of the Jail is fully restored. It might even inspire some to contribute to the restoration, so that the true Kilmainham Madonna can go home. The image reproduced here is the true Kilmainham Madonna.



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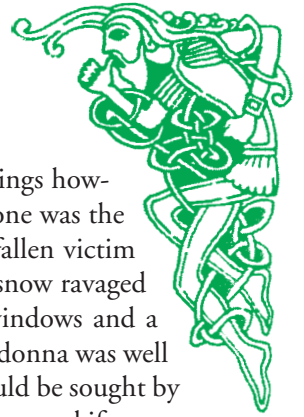
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HISTORY

The Original Kilmainham Madonna

by Mike McCormack, *National Historian*



One of Nationalist Ireland's most unique emotional treasures has been found, but as yet has not been seen by those who revere it most. The ironic part of the story is that many people never knew it was missing, and here's why.

Joseph Mary Plunkett was one of the most beloved and charismatic of all the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising. A deeply religious individual, as evidenced by his middle name in honor of the Mother of God, he came from the same family that had given St. Oliver Plunkett as a martyr to the Church. A youth of frail health, he grew into a sickly manhood, though his heart was one of the strongest when it came to love of Mother Ireland. Always creative and bright, the nationalism he inherited emerged in inspired poetry in which he damned the conquerors of his land and praised the glories of her heritage. His most memorable work remains the immortal verse, **I See His Blood Upon the Rose**, in which he sees the likeness of Christ in all His creations. It is little wonder that he attracted other talented individuals into his world — one of whom was the beautiful young Grace Gifford whose artistic ability and nationalist fervor complimented his own.



On Good Friday, 1916, Joseph was recuperating from throat surgery when he learned that the Easter Rising he had helped to plan was set. He left a convalescent home to join his comrades-in-arms in the doomed enterprise. After the failed Rising, Plunkett was remitted to Kilmainham Jail to await his execution on May 4. Broken in health, but not in spirit, he scratched his memorable poem on the wall of his cell. On the night of May 3, as Joseph awaited the fateful dawn, the prison Chaplain arrived with Joseph's sweetheart, Grace Gifford. In fulfillment of their wishes, they were married in the prison chapel. Six hours later 29-year-old Joseph Mary Plunkett added his name to the list of Ireland's Martyrs for freedom.

After his death, Grace Gifford threw herself into the Republican activities of Cumann na mBan — Ladies Auxiliary to the IRA — and was herself jailed in the women's section of the same Kilmainham jail in which her husband had been executed. Like Joseph before her, she left an artistic memento on the stone wall of her dreary cell — it was a sketch of Mary, the mother of God, perhaps in remembrance of Joseph's middle name. Admired by all the women prisoners, it was dubbed the Kilmainham Madonna. In May 1923, Republican prisoners were removed from Kilmainham. The women were transferred to the North Dublin Union, the old jail was closed and the only remaining captives were bitter memories and scattered etchings on cold stone walls. The Jail remained abandoned until 1960, when a group of 1916-1923 veterans, volunteered to restore it as a national museum. Over the next 20 years, they

worked at the restoration. Some things however, could not be restored. Sadly, one was the Kilmainham Madonna which had fallen victim to the elements, as rain, wind, and snow ravaged the old cell wall through broken windows and a collapsed roof. The story of the Madonna was well known however, insuring that it would be sought by future visitors, but how could it be restored if no one knew what it looked like? Sadly, Grace had passed away on December 13th 1955 and couldn't guide them. Then, an embroidery done by Grace Gifford was found; it was the Madonna in an oval of stars, and it was beautiful. The piece was painstakingly reproduced, in every detail, on a cell wall in the ground floor museum area. The Kilmainham Madonna had been restored — or had it?

In 1986, the State took over the upkeep of the Jail, and they sponsored exhibits relating to its history. One of those exhibits led to a remarkable discovery. A 1988 article that I had written in the Irish Echo newspaper eulogized Bridie Halpin, a Dublin lady who, in her youth, had been incarcerated in Kilmainham for Republican activities. She left a remarkable collection of personal memorabilia of great historic significance. At my suggestion, the Halpin family donated Bridie's mementoes to Kilmainham. That prompted a search for former Cumann na mBan members or their descendants, willing to share other souvenirs and artifacts, with the intent of building an exhibit to honor the Republican Women of Ireland.

People responded generously, and in 1997, Kilmainham Jail opened an exhibition entitled **Guns and Chiffon** which Irish President Mary Robinson called *long overdue*. The exhibit led to a book on the subject, and eventually traveled to several venues in America. There was one thing missing however, and that was any discussion of the Madonna. The reason was that during the search for artifacts, one lady offered a sketch of the Kilmainham Madonna which didn't match the one that restorers had re-painted on the first floor cell wall! Further, Grace's name and address were in the lower right corner of the sketch! Where had it come from? The lady claimed that her great aunt — to whom the drawing was given — was Grace's cell mate, and received it as a gift from her in 1923. The donor said that when it was learned that the women prisoners were to be transferred from Kilmainham, her relation told Grace that her only regret would be leaving the beautiful Madonna behind, for she had gotten so used to its comforting presence. Grace consoled her cell-mate by sketching a copy of the Kilmainham Madonna to take with her wherever she went. This was the sketch now offered.



(Continued on page 3)