



**February
2024**

Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Hello Brothers, I know this a busy time a year. I would like to remind brothers that our St. Patricks Day parade is around the corner. It would be nice to see a nice turnout of brothers for the Mass that is held in St. MARY’S Church before the parade. Also, I would like to see members to show up for marching in the parade. It is nice to show people in the community how we reprint our Irish culture. Thank you again for your hard work and see you at the parade.

**Yours in Motto,
James Smyth
AOH President
Dutchess Co. Msgr. Sheahan Division
914-456-4185**

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Financial Secretary Corner

Brothers,

What a way to start the year. On Thursday January 18th we had twenty Brothers in attendance for our meeting. We started with a Shamrock degree where we welcomed Brother Andrew O’Grady and Father James Sheridan into our order. We then heard a tremendous talk on FFAI (Freedom For All Ireland) by Bob Bolback who is the Co- Chair of this national committee. What an inspiring talk he gave and then we presented him with a check for \$1500 dollars which you made possible. So, Brothers thank you once again.

As you know we are getting close to March so check both the AOH website and the Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade Committee, Inc. to see all that is going on. Again, if you know of any good candidate that would like to join our division, please let us know.

**In Brotherhood & Motto,
Jack Fedigan
256 Osborne Hill Road
Fishkill, NY 12524**



*It’s always time for membership, ask your friends, neighbors, even members of your church!
The only requirements are that you need to be a male, at least 16 years old, Irish and Catholic.
Help make our Division grow. Bring someone to a meeting!*

*“ May Irish Blessings be in your Heart
And any troubles soon depart.
May sunny skies shine in your Land.
And God and his Angels stay close at hand.”*

**Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division # 1**

**Division Website:
www.DCAOH#1.org**

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Division Officers: Deacon Robert Horton



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James Smyth
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Gene Noone
Vice President
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**Jack Fedigan
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THE BLACK IRISH

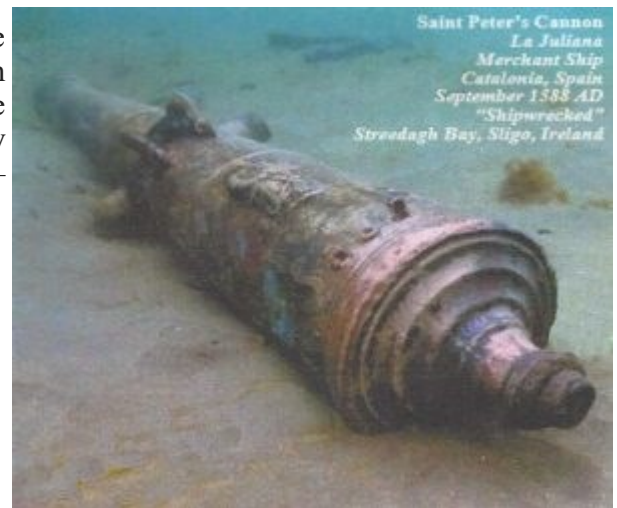
Dubh (*Doov*) in the Irish language means dark or black and is used to describe someone by the color of their hair as in *Roisin Dubh* (*Dark Rosaleen*) or *Hugh Dubh O'Neill* (*Black Hugh O'Neill*), an Irish patriot of the 17th century best remembered for his defense of Clonmel in 1650. He was also nephew of *Owen Ruadh O'Neill* (*Owen the Red O'Neill*) whose red hair was a distinguishing characteristic.

Some believe that survivors of the Spanish Armada who landed in Ireland were the ancestors of Ireland's black-haired population, but that's not true; black hair and brown eyes were attributes of the original Celts. Further, there was no great settlement of Spanish military in Ireland. In November, 2017, Ireland's archives published an article entitled: 'Spanish Armada Shipwrecks along the Wild Atlantic Way.' It revealed facts about the estimated 6,000 men lost on Ireland's coast in September, 1588, in what was one of the worst Atlantic storms ever recorded. The article, from archaeological sources, details a horrible end to nearly 1,100 Armada survivors who wrecked in Sligo's Streedagh Bay, according to the testimony of a surviving Armada officer.

Captain Francisco de Cuellar later wrote that, as a survivor, he found: *"the land and shore were full of enemies, who went dancing with delight at our misfortune; and when any one of our people reached the beach, two hundred savages and other enemies fell upon him and stripped him of what he had."* These were the English garrison troops and Irish loyal to the Crown who stripped survivors of their possessions before turning them over to the British for a reward. However, there were Irish clans protecting survivors and, according to Cuellar, they were: *"the O'Rourke of Breifne, McClancy of Rosclogher and Redmond O'Gallagher of Derry."* They did so at the behest of the three Hughs – O'Neill, O'Donnell and Maguire – who safely returned survivors to Spain hoping to secure Spain's aid in the coming Nine Year's War. Estimates run as high as 300 who reached the Sligo shore from 3 ships and, like the other survivors, they were stripped and executed; officers, like Cuellar, were ransomed back to Spain. Virtually none survived to settle down and marry Irish women; those few who escaped detection were more anxious to get out of enemy territory and back to their own families than to settle down among the Brits.

To date, only the wreck of **La Juliana** has been researched; it lay with 23 other Armada shipwrecks off the Irish coast from Antrim to Kerry. Protected National Monument Sites, no public diving upon the ships is allowed. La Juliana was examined by archaeologists and for the first time in 430 years, human eyes saw the superior forging and the armorial crests of the families that made the bronze Armada cannons. Some, signifying the 16th century Genoa gun foundry of Dorino Il Gioardi, were embossed with figures and names of saints. One was emblazoned with motifs of flames and celestial images of suns and stars, capped by two ornate lifting handles shaped like dolphins – a testament to the craftsmanship of the 16th century Sicilian gunsmith Federico Musarra. Another bears the figure of St. Peter holding the keys of Heaven standing atop a scroll indicating the cannon's weight and the year 1570 AD. One, forged by 'Master Mustafa' of Turkey with Islamic inscriptions on it was obviously a war prize since La Juliana took part in the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, defeating the fleet of the Ottoman Turks. This was the Renaissance period and ornate designs were the norm, not the exception. This is the largest retrieval of bronze cannons so far and more will come. Today, these cannons are in Sligo, but there are 23 more yet to be researched. This will take years and hopefully will result in Ireland's first National Maritime Museum.

So the next time you hear that the Black Irish are descendants of the Spanish Armada, you know the truth. It's the blonde, blue-eyed Irish who are descended from foreigners – like the violent Vikings and the peaceful Normans (also descended from Vikings) and who eventually settled in Ireland to become as Irish as the Irish themselves – **but** never more Irish!



As of January 10, 2024 the sign was posted on Interstate 84 at the Lime Kiln Exit for Hopewell Junction, Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County announcing “ Zone Sergeant James G. Sweeney Memorial Bridge .” The sign placement occurred through the efforts of NY Senator Robert Rolison, former NY Senator and now Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, NY Assemblyman Anil Beephan and former Assemblyman Kieran Lalor (AOH Member), and sponsor AOH member Jack Gensch (Lieut. NYSP Retired).



Brothers,

I would like to thank Brother Bob Bolback, National FFAI Committee, for attending our New Year’s first meeting.

Bob delivered a well received, educational talk on FFAI activities. He has brought us up to date on National AOH involvement, in fighting Britain’s Amnesty Bill “Legacy & Reconciliation Bill”, which ends all inquiries into the deaths of innocent civilians, by British armed forces. This law passed the British Parliament. The AOH have lobbied Washington and Irish Government to put pressure on the British. Ireland has recently launched a legal challenge into the “Legacy & Reconciliation Bill.

Our voices matter as well as your generation donations this year. We proudly awarded FFAI a check for \$1500, our largest donation to date.

Bob, graciously thanked us on behalf of FFAI, and our Irish benefactors.

Thank You
Gerry McVicker, Jack Fedigan
FFAI Committee



Gentlemen,

The 29th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade is scheduled for March 2nd. Members will be needed for the parade as we will be marching behind our Irish cottage. Our newest members will be involved Andrew O’Grady is the Grand Marshal and Father James Sheridan will be presiding at the 9am Mass. Andrew O’Grady, GM along with Margot Maher, AIDE will be receiving their sashes at the Annual Emerald Ball on February 17th at the Elks Lodge in Poughkeepsie. Tickets are available for \$65 per person. Dinner choices are Roast Beef, Chicken Parmesan, or Eggplant for the vegetarians. If you would like to attend please call Trish Costello for tickets at (845) 297-0800. If you would like to march in the parade please contact our President James Smythe. If you would like to take an ad in the commemorative journal you can contact Gene Noone (914) 469-6661 or Jack Fedigan (914) 474-8706.

- ◆ February 3rd - Major Degree (See next Page)
- ◆ February 15th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ February 17th - Emerald Ball
- ◆ March 2nd - Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade

*Just some of the activities your
Dutchess County,
Division 1, AOH is involved in.
Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!*



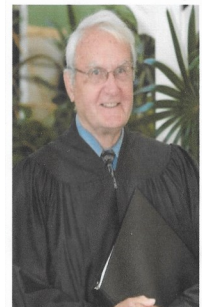
Please Look in this newsletter for information about on our newly named Scholarship.

The “Matthew P. Fitzgerald Memorial AOH Scholarship”

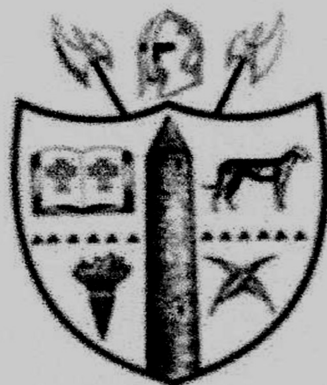
An Application and letter explaining everything is located on Pages 5

The Committee is: Gene Noone, Bob Horton, Sean Keenan, Jim Fedigan, & CJ Tomaskovic

If you need more info you can reach out to any of these gentlemen.



**JOHN F. KENNEDY DIVISION #1
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK
MAJOR DEGREE TEAM**



**THE MAJOR DEGREES OF THE ORDER WILL BE
EXEMPLIFIED ON FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

**THIS WILL BRING CANDIDATES INTO THE
INNER CHAMBER OF HIBERNIANISM.**

**CANDIDATES MUST REPORT TO THE ALBANY
A.O.H. HALL AT 375 ONTARIO STREET,
ALBANY, NY NO LATER THAN NOON.**

Presentable attire is recommended.

Following the Degrees, food and refreshments will be served (food is included with registration fee). Interested candidates need to register via email at aohanse5@gmail.com in advance of 2/1/2024. Please provide Membership ID # and Division in Registration Email.

Registration costs:

Candidates: \$25

Observers: \$15

Checks payable to: AOH Division 5

For more information contact Tim McSweeney at 518-961-1588
or at newjack12007@yahoo.com



In addition to the times of the year that have their own distinct character (*Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*) Ordinary Time has no special mystery of Christ celebrated. The mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as “**Ordinary Time**”.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, (Monday 8 January), was the beginning of Ordinary Time (closed the Season of Christmas) and continues up to Ash Wednesday (14 February) - the beginning of the Lenten Season and it ends at the Easter Vigil on March 30th. So – half of February is devoted to this ‘Ordinary’ time and the other half to ‘Lenten Time’.

We have many traditions this month that we all can recognize. Friday (2 February) is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Blessing of Candles is celebrated before mass.

On the following day (3 February) we celebrate with the ‘Blessing of Throats’, in memory of St Blaise (bishop & martyr) of *Sebaste (in Armenia)*. His devotion spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the 8th century St. Blaise has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those with illnesses of the throat.

In our celebration, the priest or deacon, with or without crossed candles, will give the blessing:

“Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, the Son + and of the Holy Spirit”

Our next church season is devoted to the preparation of ourselves for Christ. Lent begins (14 February) with Ash Wednesday and has many its own uniqueness. We come forward and receive the ashes of a cross with the priest, deacon or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist using one of the two formulas: **Repent, and believe in the Gospel or Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.**

As we complete Ordinary time and enter into Lenten Time, we work to improving ourselves with prayer, reception of the Holy Eucharist, listening more intently to the Word of God, working on penitence and more focus on our families. Please keep yourselves active – mentally, physically and spiritually. Also, pray for our family, friends, and country.

Dig deep down and continue to improve throughout 2024.

“Prayer is as necessary as the air, as the blood in our bodies, as anything to keep us alive - to keep us alive to the Grace of God.”

Mother Teresa

Let us especially pray for the following people each day with a personal prayer or maybe a rosary. We can, also, offer up those good works that we do and we can offer our own inconveniences/sufferings for the release of their souls into the heavenly presence of God.

Anthony, John, Olivia, Rebecca, Sharon, Mac, Judy, Pat, Dan, Jim, Nathan, Paul, Alan, Karen 1, Lex, Jackie, Gene 1, Hanna, Georgette, Bill, Patty, Danny, Donna, Karen 2, Dave, Gene 2, Lee, Helen, Pat 2, Cathy, Rev. Fr. Michael, Jim 2, Noreen, Rev. Fr. Jim, John, Eileen, Paula, Jared, Brendan, Daniel, James, Justin, Tom, Paul, Terry, Leslie, Jane, Tom J., Patrick 3, Richard, Cathy, Phil, Mary, Don, Janice, Alice, Ron 1, Judy 2, Bob, Pat 3, Bill 2, Nathan 2, Dan, Bill 3, Terry, Stephen, John 2, Tom 2, Pat 4, Deacon Bill, Msgr. Brinn, Michael Peter Condon and Son, Rev. Fr. Pat, Deacon Hayes, Joann, Patricia, John 3, Ron 2, Jean, Matthew, Cathy, Ed, Pat 5, Bill 4 and Matt Fitzgerald our most recently deceased brother.

For all our deceased Brothers and all those faithful departed, we pray that they rest in the peace of Christ. We also include, dear Lord, a prayer for strength of their caretakers and continued love for them all.

For those faithful departed we pray that they may rest in peace.

If you have someone you want the Division 1 to pray for, please email me at **NOTROH143@AOL.COM** or call at **845-546-3187**.

+ May God bless you and your families,

Deacon Bob Horton, Chaplain



Matthew P. Fitzgerald Memorial AOH Scholarship



The Committee has established the Matthew Fitzgerald Memorial Fund. By the time you read this we will be able to accept donations to go towards this Scholarship Program in two (2) ways, Larger donations needing tax exemption can be sent directly to Community Foundations at 25 Van Wagner Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Smaller donations can be sent directly to Jack Fedigan at DCAOH, PO Box 1530, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. If sending a check please make a notation earmarked for the Matthew Fitzgerald Memorial Fund!

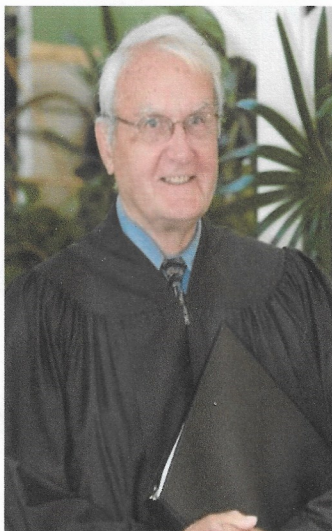
We will be listed on the Community Foundations web-site and we can start receiving tax deductible donations. If you go through the web-site please note the donation is for the Matthew Fitzgerald Memorial Fund! We will also continue to raise and accept donations through our membership and sales of football chances, and whatever else we come up with to keep Matt's legacy alive.

This will be a long term venture that benefits Matt Fitzgerald's Legacy, the Scholarship winners, The Dutchess County AOH Division #1 and our future charitable endeavors.

Any further questions please contact one of the committee members: Gene Noone, Deacon Bob Horton, Sean Keanan, Jim Fedigan, CJ Tomaskovic.

Thank you for whatever you can do to help in this endeavor.

*In Memory of the
Honorable
Matthew P. Fitzgerald*



Shortly after graduating from Cardinal Hayes High School in 1953, Matt joined the United States Army and served for two years. Like many of his generation, he attended college while working full time, studying police science at CUNY Baruch. He graduated in 1963 and went on to earn a Masters of Social Work from Fordham University in 1966.

Matt proudly served the New York City Police Department from 1957 to 1967 as patrolman and investigator. There, he experienced some of the best and the worst his city had to offer. In addition to providing the fodder for countless stories, this work fueled Matt's commitment to public service.

In 1968 the family moved to Hyde Park where Matt began a 35 year career. He was a Professor of Criminal Justice at Dutchess Community College and adjunct instructor at Marist College. He is still fondly remembered by many former students for the incredible impact he had on their lives.

He was elected Hyde Park Town Justice in 1977 and sat on the bench till he retired in 2003. Widely regarded as tough but fair, Judge Fitzgerald was often elected with the endorsement of both political parties. Nothing surpassed his love of Ireland and his passion for introducing his grandchildren to traditions, music, stories and festivities through many cherished years together. At Ceilis Matt's soda bread was legendary. His fundraising abilities were also legendary. He was the top fundraiser for the Ancient Order of Hibernians where his penchant for selling raffle tickets to help children afford to attend parochial schools was, in a word, outstanding.

Matt touched the life of every person he met. His passing will leave a large hole in his community and his family. A poster hung in his office asking simply the following words: "Will it matter that I was?" We're sure everyone who knew Matthew will answer "Yes!"

Sponsors Page



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Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you or someone you do business with wants to advertise with us, just get a business card to the newsletter editor. And the money to our Financial Secretary the cost is just \$25.00 per year.



Important Dates

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Prayers for the Sick

Deacon Bob & Judy Horton	Pat Herlihy
Pat & Bill O'Hare	Nathan Redmond
Dan Reilly	Bill Schimpf
Terry Flaherty	Stephen O'Hare
John Kelly	Tom Jessup
Dorothy Oakley	Diane Herder
Jeremiah Mahoney	Al Blanche

* In Memoriam *

Matt Fitzgerald
Rev. John Brinn



“Remember the Celtic Tiger? Well, she turned out to be a pussycat with a shamrock. Ireland was the hot country of the 2000s as youth from throughout the euro zone flocked there for jobs in finance, software development, restaurants, what have you...That was then. A property bubble burst badly, leaving Irish banks technically insolvent and the government deeply in debt — its ratio of deficit to GDP, at 14.3%, is higher than that of Greece...he Irish government pledges to cut more, but you can't get blood from a blarney stone. .”

~~Howard Gold~~



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

