



# Division 65 Newsletter

March 2009

Joseph E. Montgomery Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 65

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Message from the President

Welcome to the Inaugural issue of the Joseph E. Montgomery AOH Division 65 Newsletter. This endeavor is the brain-child of our Recording Secretary, Jim Mullen. We hope to publish this monthly as an additional avenue to keep our members informed of the Division happenings as well as local Irish charitable events and entertainment venues. I thank Jim for the time and effort he has put forth in mirroring similar other Division periodicals and we hope to make this work-in-progress unique to Division 65.

On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> we will participate in our first celebration in honor of the Great and Glorious St. Patrick (I'm biased) at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will start at 12 Noon with our very own Brother, Richie Gildea as the Grand Marshal.

Our second tribute to the Patron Saint of Ireland will take place on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the 239<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year the Parade, which begins at 11:00 AM, will start at 16<sup>th</sup> & JFK and then move up 16<sup>th</sup> Street and proceed down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to the Art Museum and the reviewing stand. Division 65 will assemble at 12:00 Noon on the West side of 20<sup>th</sup> Street between JFK and Arch Street. We are in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division of the Parade and number 159 in the line of march. This position will allow for those from our Division who march with St. Thomas More (number 77) to fall back and show their pride and commitment by marching with us. Our place in the line of March will also enable our numerous Brothers, who are Marshals for the earlier Parade Divisions, the ease and opportunity to join our band of Brothers and make an admirable showing.

Both Parades will be discussed at our next meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> at which time we hope to distribute the jackets (62) to all those who took advantage of the dues/jacket pre-paid special.

Yours in our motto,

Pat Mulhern



The division meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Knights of Columbus in Upper Darby at 8:00 PM.

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.aoh65.com](http://www.aoh65.com)

## Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity



### **Fleadh an Earraigh (Festival of Spring)**

The Fleadh an Earraigh is only two months away and everything is coming together nicely. We should have tickets available shortly and we will have them at the next meeting. We are asking all of the Brothers to donate a bottle of liquor to our upcoming meeting so we can make up some baskets of cheer so we can auction them off at the Fleadh. Art Hunter recently made contact with the Wilmington Blue Rocks and we should be getting some tickets from them for our silent auction. We also picked up a four-some at Edgmont Golf Course.

We will be starting our advertising campaign shortly. We plan on getting radio play from the Irish radio programs, press releases in our local newspapers and church bulletins. If you have a contact in your parish, let us know so we can get the information to the right people. We will also distribute our flyers all around Delaware County in the next few weeks.

We will also need your help in getting the program book together. We passed out ads from last year's book hoping to get the ads renewed. If you know of anyone that would like to run an ad in our book, please contact me or Tom Ford for ad book insertion forms.

Look for another update in next month's newsletter and by e-mail.

### **Hibernian Hunger Project**

The Irish Memorial at Penns Landing is a symbol of the struggles of the Irish People during the time called An Gorta Mor. A million Irish would die of starvation. A million more immigrated to other countries to avoid starvation. The Irish Memorial symbolizes the struggles that still go on today around the world. We do not have to look any further than our own backyard to see how people struggle to feed their families.

The Hibernian Hunger Project (HHP) is a national program started in Philadelphia by Bob Gessler in remembrance of those whose suffered and died in Ireland. To date they have prepared over 70,00 meals for such organizations as the Aids for Friends, local food banks, churches and homeless centers.

This is a cause I truly believe in and we as a division should give our full support. The annual HHP cook –in will take place. I will let everyone know of the exact date shortly. We are a generous people and I know I can count on your support in the future.

May St. Patrick guard  
you wherever you go,  
and guide you in  
whatever you do--  
and may his loving  
protection be a blessing  
to you always.



### **March Madness**

The Division is hosting a March Madness Party at Dukes Tavern in Springfield on Sunday March 22, 2009. This will be a private party open only to members, family and friends. The time is from 2 PM to 6 PM. The price is \$25.00 per person. If you bring a new member they only pay \$10.00. We want this to be an all family event so we encourage you to bring your kids. Kids under 21 are free. We will have available on tap Miller Lite, Lager, plus wine and soda. We will also have hot dogs, pretzels, soft pretzels, potato chips, pepperoni and cheese. Mixed drinks not included.

Mix and mingle while watching NCAA Tournament games on numerous TV'S.

## Irish History

### Saint Fursey

The Venerable Bede in his history, tells of an Irish Monk c. 567-648, who was known for his vision and prophecies, who fell into a trance one evening, and was given a vision of heaven and hell, which so impressed him that he devoted his life to building monasteries, while leading an other wise austere lifestyle. His name was Saint Fursey or Fursa, who was of royal blood, his father a descendant of the Munster kings, while his mother was of royal blood of Connaught, a princess of Breffney. He was taught by his uncle, Saint Brendan the Navigator, and founded a monastery near Headford, Galway.

Most accounts have placed the vision taking place going from Connaught to Munster. With his two brothers he evangelized East Anglia, staying there for about 15 years, and then traveling to Picardy in France, where he established another monastic settlement in Lagny.

Many miracles were attributed to him, even after his death, but it was of the visions that he was famed. Frederick Ozanman, the founder of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, stated Fursa's marvelous visions inspired Dante". Sir Frances Palgrave, in his history of Normandy and England, stated "We have no difficulty in deducing the poetic genealogy of Dante's Inferno from the Milesian Fursasus". The Venerable Bede is mentioned in Dante's classic, so he must have had knowledge of his works. John Healy, Bishop of Clonfert in "Ireland's Ancient Schools and Scholar" (1897), states "his celebrated visions were known to all medieval Europe; and it is said that they furnished Dante with ground work of the plot of the best scenes in the Divinia Commedia". His feast day is January 16<sup>th</sup>.



May you live  
to be one  
hundred  
years , with  
one extra year  
to repent.

# Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

## March 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	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Schedule of Events

- 3/1 St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraiser at Finnigans Wake
- 3/5 Hibernian Hunger Project Irish stew Cook-off at Finnigans Wake
- 3/8 St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraiser at Springfield Country Club
- 3/11 Division 65 General Meeting at 8:00 PM
- 3/14 Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/15 Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/17 St Patrick's Day
- 3/22 Division 65 March Madness at Dukes Tavern Springfield PA

### Division Member Profile Joseph E. Montgomery

For our inaugural newsletter, I felt it was appropriate to write about our Division's namesake Joseph E. Montgomery.

Joe had served 42 years as President of our Division. He has held office as County and State Board Presidents and has also served on the National level of the AOH. He is a lifetime member of the AOH receiving in 1992 the honored Gold Card Life Membership and holds the title of President Emeritus of our division. He was also named Grand Marshal of the 1993 Philadelphia Saint Patrick's Day Parade and is on the board of directors of the parade. He has served with distinction on many committees and organizations throughout his lifetime.

Joe was born in South Philadelphia in 1919 and attended Epiphany of our Lord Elementary School and Roman Catholic High School. He served in the Army during World War II rising to the rank of Top Sergeant. He would marry Mary Collis and have 3 children and many grand and great grandchildren. He worked as a Teamster for 35 years retiring in 1981.

Joe continues to help guide and shape this division with his knowledge and experience.

We are going to select a different division member each month to include in our newsletter. A questionnaire will be created to gather background information for each article.