



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

December 2022

Volume 10/No 12

President: Bob Fitzgerald; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Shawn Lenahan; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary:** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bobby Murphy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** Jack Kelly; **Webmaster:** Vacant; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (billhalpin@irshcultureva.org)

Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be “one nation under God”. This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Historically for Irish Catholics the Christmas Season begins on 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On that day Christmas trees are decorated. The season comes to an end on Epiphany, 6 January or “Little Christmas”.

The Christmas greeting in Irish is *Nollaig Shona Duit* or *Nollaig Shona Daoibh* [plural]

Also season tradition for St. Stephens day, the day after Christmas. In the west of Ireland there is a tradition called the Wren Parade. In Gaelic traditional culture today people dress up and chase a *symbol* of the wren through town in a parade.

In the past the dressing up involved painting faces black and killing an actual wren. Then young boys would go from house to house collecting money for ... the Clancy Brothers have the answer (control click on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))



President's Corner:

Brothers - we are now in the midst of the holiday season and I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. On Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we had our annual Meagher Division Memorial Mass at St. Jude Church with eight brothers in attendance along with our deceased Brother John Hogan's wife, daughter, and granddaughter. I want to thank our Chaplain, Deacon Aaron, for his service before and during the Mass and also Dennis O'Leary for again serving as the cantor (with his guitar).

We're in the middle of Advent now and with Christmas approaching quickly, it will be a busy time for all, but I encourage you to participate in our upcoming December events. Our annual wreath laying is on Sunday, 11 Dec, at noon at the Irish Brigade Memorial at the City Dock followed by fellowship at the Colonial Tavern. On Friday, 18 Dec, from 3-4:00 pm, we will be participating as a Division at the Eucharistic Adoration at St. Jude Church. Both of these events are open to all so bring your family and friends. And last but not least, our December business meeting is on Tuesday, 20 Dec, at 7:30pm at the KofC Hall. Among other things, we will be discussing our draft annual budget and your input is appreciated so we can finalize it for a vote at the January meeting. Hope to see you all soon at the upcoming events!

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald, President



Deacon Aaron's "required reading" for Advent:

[Advent and the Four Last Things \(catholiceducation.org\)](http://catholiceducation.org)



Division Charities continued...



Each year our Charities Committee develops a recommended list of area charities the division will support. For 2022, the division budgeted more the \$2,000 to support three area pro-life organizations. These charities are the Paul Stefan Foundation (www.paulstefanhome.org), Mary's Shelter (marysshelterra.org), and Birthright of Fredericksburg (birthrightfred@gmail.com).

In this photo, Division Vice President Shawn Lenahan is presenting a check to Brenda, representing Birthright of Fredericksburg



Remembering our Deceased Brothers



The Annual Division Memorial Mass for deceased brothers was celebrated by Father O'Keefe at St. Jude Church on November 22d. The division was joined by Lynne Hogan and family. President Bob Fitzgerald recited the 29 names: John A'Hearn, Lewis M. A. Barrett, Ray Beaver, Phil Booty, Bill Callahan, David Coon, Ed Cranshaw, Ronald Cullen, John Cunningham, Jeff Fitzpatrick, William Fitzpatrick, Richard Fleming, John A. Glancy, Donald A. Hildebrand Sr., John E. Hogan, Thomas G. Leahy, Michael "Mick" Linehan, Jim Mannion, Francis Maxey, Joseph McCardell, Bill McCarthy, Neil Mulcahy, Rev. Fr. John Munley, Joseph O'Connor, John O'Toole, John F Parker, Larry Pratt, Earl Smith, John Tracy



Welcoming New Brothers to Our Division:

In October we welcomed Brother Chris Green. In November we welcomed four more new brothers: Deacon Michael Watts, Randy Tyler, Brandon Tyler and Rob Howard. These five brothers are Culpeper County residents, Precious Blood parishioners and will be Charter Members

of a new division in Culpeper/Warrenton when it is organized. Past State President Bill Halpin administered the Hibernian Pledge and National AOH recommended they be brought into the General Meagher Division until the new division is chartered.



The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. There can be neither truce nor compromise.

Eugene O’Neill: America’s Playwright

Condensed from an article by C.F. Canning, contributor to Irish America

Eugene O’Neill was an Irish-American who never set foot on Irish soil. And yet a good measure of his identity as an artist was defined by his Irishness: “One thing that explains more than anything about me is the fact that I’m Irish.”

Born in New York City on October 16, 1888, Eugene Gladstone O’Neill’s father, James O’Neill, was from Kilkenny and emigrated to America following the great Famine. Eugene’s mother, Mary Ellen Quinlan was a first-generation Irish-American. They had boys. The first was named James, Jr. The other two boys were given names right out of the chronicles of Irish nationalism. One was Edmund Burke, after the great Irish-born statesman and orator. The third was named Eugene Gladstone — the “Gladstone” for the British Prime Minister who had fought for Irish Home Rule.

James O’Neill was a successful actor. The family had a summer house in New London, Connecticut. The gypsy-like existence of an actor’s life affected all the O’Neills. Eugene was born in a New York City hotel room and weighed 11 pounds. To ease the pain, the hotel doctor administered morphine and Ella became addicted to the drug.

Eugene was sent to St. Aloysius boarding school in the Bronx at the age of seven. After five years there and two years at Christian Brothers at De la Salle in Manhattan, O’Neill prevailed upon his parents to take him out of Catholic schools. He became disaffected with Catholicism and left the church when he was fourteen. However, his Catholic upbringing remained vitally important to

him. He was described as “a renegade Catholic”. Years later, when O’Neill was asked to describe his work, he said, “In all my plays sin is punished and redemption takes place.”

Although he had just one year of college, O’Neill received a marvelous education in what Mark Twain called “the university of the world.” Long before O’Neill decided to become a playwright, he had absorbed the ways of the theater. Another thing that O’Neill had was life experience. Before he was twenty-five, he had married and fathered a son; gone off to Honduras on a gold discovering expedition; abandoned a wife and child; shipped out to sea; lived along the waterfronts of New York, Buenos Aires, and Southampton; tried to commit suicide; worked as a newspaper reporter; and spent six months in a sanatorium recovering from tuberculosis.

This experience O’Neill regarded as the turning point in his life -- where he had his first opportunity for reflection. He decided to be a playwright and told friends “Someday James O’Neill will best be known as the father of Eugene O’Neill.”

In 1916 O’Neill had his first play produced (*Bound East for Cardiff*) in Provincetown, MA. Success on Broadway followed with *Beyond the Horizon*. O’Neill received his first Pulitzer Prize for *Beyond the Horizon*. James O’Neill’s reaction to *Beyond the Horizon* provides a most telling remark: “It’s all right, if that’s what you want to do, but people come to the theater to forget about their troubles, not to be reminded of them. What are you trying to do — send them home to commit suicide?”

O’Neill was attempting to create American tragedy in the tradition of the Greeks and the Elizabethans. O’Neill said “It was seeing the Irish players for the first time that gave me a glimpse of my opportunity. I thought then and I still think that they demonstrated the possibilities of naturalistic acting better than any other company. It’s a sheer present-day judgement to think of tragedy as unhappy! The Greeks and the Elizabethans knew better. They felt a tremendous lift to it. It roused them spiritually to a deeper understanding of life. Through it they found release from the petty considerations of everyday existence. They saw their lives ennobled by it.”

From 1920 to 1928 he wrote fifteen plays. He often had two or three plays in production at the same time. O’Neill won his second Pulitzer Prize for *Anna Christie* and his third for *Strange Interlude*. Many people regard *The Emperor Jones*, *The Hairy Ape*, and *Desire Under the Elms* as O’Neill’s early masterpieces.

The year 1928 marked another turning point in O’Neill’s life. He left his second wife of nine years and their two children and sailed for Europe with Carlotta Monterey where he wrote *Mourning Becomes Electra*. In 1931 O’Neill and Carlotta lived in Georgia. Where he wrote *Days Without End* and *Ah, Wilderness!* In 1936 they moved to the Seattle.

O’Neill won the 1936 Nobel Prize for Literature. The Irish ambassador in Washington praised him on behalf of the Irish Free State ‘as adding, along with Shaw and Yeats, to the credit of old Ireland.’ O’Neill commented, ‘what could be more perfect?’”

O’Neill wrote some of his best plays after winning the Nobel Prize. O’Neill finished *A Touch of the Poet* and wrote *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day’s Journey into Night*, *Hughie* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. *A Touch of the Poet*, *Long Day’s Journey into Night* and *A Moon for the*

Misbegotten might be considered an Irish-American trilogy as they dramatize Irish-American families in opposition to their Yankee counterparts.

In *A Touch of the Poet*, set in a roadhouse tavern on the outskirts of Boston in 1828, a successful Irish immigrant Con Melody struggles to come to terms with his new identity in Yankee New England.

Long Day's Journey into Night is set in New London, critic John Henry Raleigh wrote the play is "the great expression of American Irish-Catholicism; it puts permanently into the shade the stage-Irish — St. Patrick's Day — *Going My Way* — Mother McCree type of sentimentality that has encircled the image of the Irish in America."

A Moon for the Misbegotten, set in the Connecticut countryside was the last play O'Neill wrote. In this great work, O'Neill dramatized the tragedy of his brother Jamie's life. It contains some of the most riotous comedy in all his work.

O'Neill did his last writing in 1943. A tremor, brought on by a degenerative nerve disorder, ended O'Neill's career when he was 56 years old. He died in a Boston hotel room nine years later.

Eugene O'Neill's "Irishness" — far from being a provincial expression of narrowminded cultural experience — is the stuff of some of the greatest tragedy in the English language



November's Test Question: What is the origin of the term "boycott"?

Answer: In the 19th Century absentee British landlords were exploiting Irish tenant farmers. Captain Charles Boycott was a landlord's agent, a man who collected rents from tenant farmers on an estate in County Mayo. When farmers on the estate demanded a reduction in their rents, Boycott refused and evictions followed. The Irish Land League advocated that Irishmen refuse to do business with him. This tactic was effective when Irish workers refused to harvest crops. On Dec. 6, 1880, the New York Times used the term "boycottism" to describe the Irish Land League tactic. The term stuck!

December Trivia Question: In the USA the term "plantation" is commonly used to describe large tracts of farming and grazing land. What is the origin of the term?



Upcoming Division Events 

Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

- **11 Dec:** Wreath presentation at Irish Bde memorial/City Dock
- **12 Dec:** **35th Anniversary of the Division Charter**
- **18 Dec:** Adoration at St Jude 3-4 PM
- **20 Dec:** Division monthly meeting
- **25 Dec:** **Christmas Day**



Our Division Prayers

Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- **Chuck Lyons**, a New Jersey Hibernian and friend of Tim Lynch
- **Joe Daly**, COPD
- **Russell McLaughlin**: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- **Loretta Larzelere**: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's
- **Jerry O'Brien**: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **John O'Brien**: Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Ruth Pettinger**: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) inoperable brain tumor
- **Donna Maffeo**: Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Brian Kiernan**: VAAOH President, lymphedemic edema
- **Mary Lou and Keith Bowers**: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- **Alice Wilkowski** (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan
- Division applicant **Adam Wiederman's** wife and infant child.

Pray for the repose of the souls of deceased Brothers and family members

- John Hogan: Gen. Meagher Division 2015 Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- Christopher Grey: son of Brother Jack Grey, died 15 February 2022
- Dawn Forest: Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022.
- Bob Phillips: Brother of Bill Phillips died on 30 January 2022

Send notifications to Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy (smurphy823@gmail.com)

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to billhalpin@irishcultureva.org



Hibernian Attire

Every brother should have these articles of clothing

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html. Visit the website; call the 800 number; tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.
- Second source used by Major James Dooley Division: <https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

AOH Sash: Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to collar) crossing to the left hip. Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, a raincoat/overcoat (and a growing waistline). Sashes are available from:

- **D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com>**. The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.
- **Gettysburg Flag** offers tri-color sashes and “special prices” for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

Division Logo Items: Contact for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan (s_lenahan@verizon.net)

The AOH “uniform”

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, and other public events.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirts and optional ball cap are appropriate.



This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division and others who may have an interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown