

Cairde,

It was my great pleasure to represent the division at the installation of the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal and his aides at the New York Athletic Club on January 14th. Congratulations to ESPN soccer commentator Tommy Smyth, from the wee county (Louth) who will lead us up 5th Avenue this year. I would also like to extend to our Orange County 'Aide to the Grand Marshal,' Kevin Cummings from Division 2, our sincerest best wishes. Kevin, a wonderful Hibernian, always willing to help a fellow brother, is well deserving of this honor.

With March fast approaching it would be prudent of any division member who wishes to march in the NYC Parade to reserve their seats on the bus as soon as possible. There are only 3 busses going this year, with one being reserved for the band. As you know it is a great experience to march up 5th Avenue especially behind a great band like we have here at Division #1, and I would recommend that as many of our members as possible, particularly our newer brothers, consider marching this year.

On January 22nd I wore the Green Jacket of our Division as I marched in the Right to Life March in Washington D.C. As you may know our National President Jack Meehan has encouraged a highly focused Hibernian program in defense of the unborn. It was wonderful to see thousands and thousands of young people marching for LIFE. As I walked from the Mall towards the Supreme Court Building I could hear numerous groups of these teenagers praying the Rosary as they marched.

I will not go in to detail here, but I would encourage all our members to do their own research on this culture of death that Roe V Wade has imposed on the most vulnerable members of our society. I would also ask everyone, as Hibernians and as Catholics to try to march next year in the Right to Life march (if necessary.)

You know as I sat there at our January meeting and looked out at the faces of our division members, I could not help but think what a handsome bunch of Hibernians we have here at Division #1. This needs to be captured and preserved so at the February meeting we will take a Division photo, which we will frame and hang up in the Hall.

All kidding aside it would be nice to have a photo of as many of our current members as possible on the wall. If you want to be in the photo please try to make the meeting.

We had a wonderful time at the 'Kids Movie Night' on Friday Jan. 18. It was great to see the children playing together and getting to know each other. It is something we would like to do once a month. I would encourage division members to come to the next one on February 22nd. It is a great opportunity to let our children meet, watch a movie and play and you don't have to worry about a babysitter. Thank you to Deirdre and Claire Griffin, and Greg Edwards for doing such a good job of sweeping the floor afterwards.

Go mbeannaí Dia thú

Brendan O'Dowd

Uachtarán