

2013 AOH – Florida State Convention Report

Dear Worthy President, distinguished State Officers and fellow AOH members,

Greetings from Land O Lakes!

Although I am unable to be present with you today, please be assured that I fully support your efforts and pray that our 2013 State Convention will succeed in strengthening our age old tradition of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

For those of you unfamiliar with the James Powers Division, we are affiliated with Our Lady of the Rosary church located just north of Tampa. Our Division is relatively new, few in number and, to be honest, still struggling to find its way. However, thanks in large part to our core members and events of the past year, I am very excited about our Division's future.

In reflecting upon this past year, the first thing that comes to mind is the generosity of our State President, Greg Seán Canning. The year began with our Division participating in our parish's Time & Talent Fair for the very first time. Greg Seán graciously agreed to attend the 2 day event (in full regalia). He provided sings, flags and relics to use at our display table. Later in the year, Greg Seán presided over the installation of our officers. Most recently, Greg Seán attended the wake of our deceased Marshal, Patrick Daly and conducted the AOH wake ritual. So, on behalf of the James Powers Division, I want to thank Greg Seán for his continuous support and encouragement.

Our Division elected an entirely new slate of officers this past year. As President, my primary goal has been to strengthen our membership. To that end, we have sponsored 2 "Irish Movie Night" events at our parish. We hope the event will become a monthly tradition that will promote Irish culture. We also are planning to sponsor other events, including a Spelling Bee for the parish's Young Disciples, a Fun Dog Show, a Dart Tournament, a Christmas Decorations Contest and Adopt-A-Road. Most recently, our Division set up a membership table at our parish's monthly "Newcomers Dinner".

In closing, I want to thank the members of the James Powers Division for their tireless work at Our Lady of the Rosary. Our membership includes Extraordinary Ministers, Jail Ministry volunteers, lectors and ushers. It is an honor to be their President. It is my fervent hope that the James Powers Division will become a source of inspiration for them and a source of pride for AOH state and national offices.

Thank you and God bless you.

Michael Whitley
President