



ár nuachtlitr

James Powers Division

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Editor's Note...



This edition of **ár nuachtlitr** will be the last edition. One year ago, your editor promised that **ár nuachtlitr** would “inform and amuse you”. Silently, I also hoped **ár nuachtlitr** would help our Division become stronger and more vibrant. Since that promise and those hopes have mostly gone unfulfilled, “it’s time to move on”. Before doing so however, I want to thank all those who agreed to Member Spotlight interviews. I learned some amazing things about our members. In the future, your editor will focus on our Division’s (relatively) new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/aohpasco2>. I invite you to do so, too. God Bless. *Bail ó Dhia ort.*

Did you know...

our noble Order is celebrating a birthday this month? On May 4, 1836 (179 years ago), the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was born. According to The Miners’ Journal, published in Schuylkill County (PA) from 1837 – 1869, a contingent of coal miners calling themselves the Hibernian Benevolent Society traveled to New York City’s St Patrick’s Day parade. While there, they met with a group of activists calling themselves the St. Patrick’s Fraternal Society. Two months later, the first AOH Division was founded at St. James’ Roman Catholic Church located in Lower Manhattan. Coincidentally, a second Division was reportedly founded in Schuylkill County (PA) although there are no written records to confirm same. In 1983, New York City officials condemned St. James Roman Catholic Church. However, the church was saved through the efforts of the local community and Ancient Order of Hibernians. *Compiled from aoh.com, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov and wikipedia.org*

Member Spotlight...



Larry Dunleavy is a charter member of our Division and one of its most active. Larry was born in Detroit (MI). Larry’s Dad, James, was born in County Mayo. A record of James’ journey to America is recorded at Ellis Island. James and Larry’s Mom, Rosemary, worked hard, raised a family and passed on much to their 6 children, including the gift of faith. One of Larry’s fondest childhood memories is a trip to Ireland at age 13. During the month long adventure, Larry spent time at the home where his Dad was born. After moving to Florida, Larry met the love of his life, Holly. They met at an Irish pub! Larry and Holly were wed at OLOR by Fr. Steve in 1993. Larry and Holly have 5 beautiful children. The 2 youngest, Meghan and Ryan, carried the AOH State banner in front our Division’s Memorial Day parade float last year. Larry is a faithful servant, devoted husband and loving father. He also possesses endless energy. Larry is a professor and business owner. Yet, he finds time to be a soccer coach, lector, Young Disciples teacher and core team member of ReDiscover Jesus and That Man is You ministries. He also found time to participate in our Division’s Irish Movie Night events and Memorial Day Parade float. Not surprisingly, Larry’s favorite movie is “Family Man”. Larry’s favorite book (other than the Holy Bible) is “The Rhythm of Life” by Matthew Kelly. If Larry had 1 wish it would be that his children “keep their faith and find in Christ, strength, goodness and guidance to get through life’s toughest challenges”.

Bobby Sands, the revolutionary spirit of freedom...

On May 5, 1981 (34 years ago), Bobby Sands died during a hunger strike. Who was Bobby Sands and why is remembering this date important? Bobby Sands was born in 1954. He grew up Catholic in a predominantly loyalist neighborhood of Belfast. At age 10, Bobby’s family was forced to move because of loyalist intimidation. Later, Bobby would write: “it is repression that creates the revolutionary spirit of freedom”. At age 14, loyalists threatened Bobby at gunpoint to leave his first job. At age 18, he was arrested for the first time when police reportedly found 4 handguns in a house where he was staying. Bobby spent the next 3 years at Maze prison a/k/a Long Kesh. Following his release, Bobby became a community activist. Six months later, he was arrested again near the site of a bombing. Although there was no evidence linking Bobby to the bombing, he was given a 14 year sentence for gun possession. In prison, Bobby began writing articles for the Republican News. His articles were smuggled out on tiny pieces of toilet paper. Bobby wrote of brutal conditions for political prisoners that included: “deprivation of fresh air, exercise and contact with other people”. In 1980, Bobby became O/C (Officer Commanding) of the Republican prisoners when O/C Brendon Hughes and 6 other men began a hunger strike. The men were protesting the criminalization of political prisoners. The men had “Five Demands” including the right not to wear a prison uniform. After 53 days, the hunger strike ended when the British agreed to the “Five Demands”. However, when the British reneged on their agreement, Bobby announced another hunger strike. Bobby volunteered to lead the hunger strike and started 2 weeks before the others so his death could perhaps secure the “Five Demands” before the others died. During Bobby’s 65 day hunger strike, he became a Member of Parliament in a special election. Sadly, Bobby Sands MP died in the H-block prison hospital at Long Kesh before taking his seat in the House of Commons. Near the end, Bobby wrote: I remain what I am, a political POW and no one, not even the British, can change that”. The hunger strike began on March 1 (1981) and ended on October 3. Ten men, including Bobby Sands, starved themselves to death. Two days later, the British announced changes in prison policy which included allowing political prisoners to wear their own clothing. *Compiled from bobbysandstrust.com, en.wikipedia.org*