



ár nuachtlitir

James Powers Division

September - 2014

Editor's Note...

Earlier this year, I was privileged to receive our Order's Major Degrees. The ceremony took place in Georgia because Florida did not have a Major Degree Team. Thankfully, that situation is about to change as 16 brothers from various Florida Divisions have formed a Major Degree Team. The Team should be certified (by National) later this year. Rituals and Degrees of the Order are an important component of who and what we are as an organization. Major Degree ceremonies are designed to encourage members to live the ideals and practice the virtues which have distinguished the Irish people from the earliest ages. I urge you all to receive your Major Degrees and become fully initiated Hibernians.

Did you know...

the Irish Wolfhound is immortalized at Gettysburg? The Irish Wolfhound (*Cú Faoil*) is a "sighthound" and the "tallest" of all dogs. Ancient wood cuts suggest they have existed since 273 BC. As their name implies, Irish Wolfhounds were originally bred to hunt wolves. They also guarded homes, protected livestock and fought beside their masters during war. The Irish Wolfhound is often described as "Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked." At the Battle of Gettysburg, soldiers in the (3) New York Regiments of the Irish Brigade fought valiantly. A monument in their honor was erected in 1888. The monument is a 19' 6" granite Celtic Cross guarded by a life-size bronze statue of an Irish Wolfhound, symbolizing honor and fidelity. *Compiled, in part, from www.akc.org.*

Member Spotlight...



Forrest Veit is our Division Sentinel. Forrest grew up in the Douglaston community of Queens, New York. He first moved to Florida in 1964. Forrest soon became a parishioner of OLOR which, at that time, was a mission church. Forrest moved north to pursue a career in teaching. He returned to Florida in 1972. Once again, Forrest became a parishioner of OLOR and has worked tirelessly for the parish ever since. In addition to teaching, Forrest has worked in telecommunications and law enforcement. He also organized the ESL program (English as a Second Language) at Plant High School. Forrest has 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. One of his favorite activities is "Dinner and a Movie" with his family on Saturday evenings. One of Forrest's favorite memories is a family trip to the Dominican Republic. Forrest hopes someday to travel with his family to Cancún, Mexico.

The Craic (news, gossip, fun, entertainment, and enjoyable conversation)...

Last week marked the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 IRA cessation. The IRA pronouncement (then) was as follows: "*Recognizing the potential of the current situation and in order to enhance the democratic peace process and underline our definitive commitment to its success, the leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann have decided that as of midnight, Wednesday, 31 August, there will be a complete cessation of military operations. All our units have been instructed accordingly*". In a recent interview, Sinn Féin President, Gerry Adams, noted: "Enormous changes have come as a result of that decision by the IRA leadership... It has had profound effects on politics in Ireland and in the relationship between Ireland and Britain... Twenty years on, there is an urgent need for the British and Irish governments to tackle outstanding issues bedeviling the political process in the North and which threaten the progress that has been made." *Compiled from Friends of Sinn Féin USA*

Pub Review...



MacDinton's Irish Pub is located at 405 South Howard Avenue in Tampa, about 30 minutes from OLOR. On the outside, MacDinton's looks the same as all the other Pubs in SoHo. On the inside, MacDinton's is dark and has many disjointed rooms that made it difficult (sans hostess) to find a table. Pints of Guinness and 2 Irish beers are sold on tap @ \$6. Craft beers are \$5. Call me a snob, but I was disappointed when my 2nd Smithwick's arrived in a plastic cup. The menu includes 3 Irish entrées costing \$11 - \$12. The Bangers & Mash was tastefully presented and flavorful. Chicken wings with a Jameson BBQ sauce were excellent as was a robust side of French fries. The service was attentive and aesthetically pleasing. No daily specials were offered on our Saturday afternoon visit. There is live music Thursday - Saturday, but it's not always Irish. *Rating: 3 Shamrocks*