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Irish Year in Review

Carrigan Division Calendar

January
- Hibernian Newsletter
- LAOH Christmas Party
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

February
- Living the Catholic Faith Conference
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

March
- Hibernian Newsletter
- St. Patrick Coloring Contest
- Hoolie on the Mall
- Irish Cultural presentations
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade

April
- LAOH Trivia Night
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

May
- Hibernian Newsletter
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

June
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

July
- Hibernian Newsletter
- Colorado Irish Festival
- Irish Festival Liturgy

August
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

September
- Hibernian Newsletter
- Edgewater Celtic Festival
- Notre Dame Game Day
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

October
- Irish Music Night
- LAOH Trivia Night
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

November
- Notre Dame Game Day
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Sash Mass

December
- Samaritan House Volunteer Day
- Irish New Year

Monthly Events

AOH Sash Mass
Samaritan House Volunteer Day
Hibernian Newsletter (bi-monthly)
WHAT IS A HIBERNIAN?

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a Catholic, Irish American Fraternal Organization founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. The Order can trace its roots back to a parent organization, of the same name, that evolved from a need in the early 1600’s to protect the lives of priests who risked immediate death to keep the Catholic Faith alive in occupied Ireland.

Membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians is confined to men 16 years and older who are practicing Roman Catholics of Irish birth or descent, and who are citizens of United States of America. The Order strives to foster and preserve Irish culture — art, dance, music and sports, and provides a continuing bridge with Ireland for those who are generations removed.

This Year in Review newsletter showcases the events of the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Colorado and how we continue to live out the AOH motto of “Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity”.

January 2012 Stand up the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division presided over by AOH National Board Member, Michael O’Connor
The first order of business for the newly established Carrigan Division was to establish a newsletter that would highlight some of the good work being done by the Irish Community in Colorado. The first issue of the Hibernian was released in January of 2012 and included reports from the AOH, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Network, Denver Gaels, Michael Collins Pipes & Drum Band and the Teach Tábhairne Fógra Historical Journal. The Hibernian continues to grow as a source of current information for the Irish Community in Colorado and a welcome introduction to prospective members of the AOH.

St. Patrick Coloring Contest

Who was St. Patrick, and why is his Feast Day so important? Those are the questions hundreds of Colorado Catholic grade school children are now being asked in the weeks leading up to St. Patrick’s Day. The Fr. Carrigan Division Sponsored the St. Patrick Day Coloring Contest, and it was an overwhelming success in its first year. We expect it to grow substantially in the years to come.

The Patron Saint of Ireland is often misunderstood, or not understood at all, so in an effort to raise awareness at the primary school level, simple black and white drawing of St Patrick along with historical information about Ireland’s Patron Saint are handed out, and students are challenged with coloring him as they imagine he’d look. Teachers then select a winner from each class and the Carrigan men will judge those semi-finalists to come up with some overall winners in each grade level. Winners receive a small prize and they and their families are asked to march with the AOH in the St Patrick’s Day Parade.
Irish Cultural Presentations

In the weeks leading up to St. Patrick’s Day, members of the Carrigan Division volunteer their time to talk about St. Patrick, the AOH and Irish history to several small groups. This past year, presentations were given at several churches, recreation centers and senior homes.

Denver St. Patrick’s Day Parade

This year the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division made its debut in the 2012 Denver St. Patrick’s Day Parade. About 15 Carrigan men, accompanied by their family and friends, marched down the streets of Lower Downtown Denver under a perfect Colorado sky to celebrate our Saint Patrick. It was a grand time for all and particularly so for the winners of the Carrigan Division’s Saint Patrick coloring contest, who were invited to join the march. For many of the contest winners and family members, this was an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the Denver St. Patrick’s Day Parade from the inside.

Colorado Irish Festival

The Carrigan Division was proud to join the Colorado United Irish Society at the annual Colorado Irish Festival. The festival, attended by thousands of fans of the Irish, was held at Clement Park in Littleton. The Fr. Carrigan Division shared an interactive, kid friendly display that introduced the story of the Book of Kells, one of Ireland’s most important National Treasures, to festival visitors.

The Book of Kells, sometimes known as the Book of Columba, is currently displayed in the Trinity College Library in Dublin Ireland. An illuminated manuscript containing the four Gospels of the New Testament in Latin, the Book was created by Celtic monks around 800 A.D. or slightly earlier. Visitors to the display were encouraged to replicate the artwork by coloring printed sections of the book. All completed artwork was displayed for all to see.

Edgewater Celtic Festival

The Carrigan Division also attended the Edgewater Celtic Festival celebrating summer’s end. The Celtic Festival is celebrating its third year and along with Celtic musicians and dancers, the Carrigan Boys again shared about the Book of Kells.

Children color portions of the Book of Kells
Growing as a Community of Faith

The Carrigan Division has been working closely with the Archdiocese of Denver’s office of Evangelization & Catechesis to explore opportunities for the AOH and its members to grow as a community of faith. Below are several examples of opportunities that have come from those meetings.

Monthly AOH Sash Mass

Once a month members of the AOH, LAOH and our families gather to strengthen our Catholic faith by attending service together. Division members often assist in the service, wearing their respective sashes. Each month a new Parish is selected and afterwards parishioners are welcomed to learn about the AOH. Following the service we move to a local eatery for breakfast.

Irish Festival Mass

With special permission from the Archdiocese of Denver the LAOH & AOH hold an outdoor Eucharistic Liturgy at the annual Colorado Irish Festival which draws several hundred patrons. With the majestic Rocky Mountains in the background festival goers can gather to share in their Irish Catholic Faith. The Carrigan Division is proud to help with this liturgy each year.

Living the Catholic Faith Conference

The Carrigan Division is proud to represent the Irish Community of Colorado at the Archdiocese of Denver’s “Living the Catholic Faith Conference”. Division representatives introduce the Hibernians to conference patrons and attend conference talks and workshops. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the work being done in Colorado by the AOH & LAOH with a crowd of close to 4,000 representing 30 dioceses.
Irish New Year's Celebration

Several years ago, Carrigan members founded the Colorado Irish New Year's Celebration. This event is unique in that it celebrates New Year’s at 5:00 PM local time in Colorado, the time marking the New Year as it falls on Irish soil. Accompanied by Irish musicians, dancers and storytellers, several hundred members of the Irish Community celebrate together early and then are able to return to family events later in the evening.

Another Irish tradition that has been passed down from families in Cork and other AOH Divisions on the East Coast is the Irish Lamp Shade. At the stroke of midnight a traditional lamp shade is lowered on the oldest, and wisest Hibernian's head. This shade represents the one minute countdown and our connections to our ancestry in Ireland.

Along with celebrating the New Year, monetary contributions are raised for the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, as well as a collection of clothes and canned goods for the Samaritan House of the Denver Catholic Charities.

Hoolie on the Mall

Hoolie! It’s an Irish word for a big party or grand celebration, and the week prior to St. Patrick’s Day the Carrigan Division helps turn Denver’s 16th St Mall into a Hoolie to kick off St Patrick’s Week.

After hoisting the Tricolour the Carrigan boys march down the 16th St Mall lead by the Michael Collins Pipe Band. Arriving at a local Irish restaurant, members of the AOH and our families gather for traditional Irish fellowship and celebrate the start of St. Patrick’s week.

LAOH Christmas Party

Each year on the 6th of January, the Colorado Ladies Ancient order of Hibernians holds its annual Christmas Party and Officers Installation. This is a celebration of Christmas in an Irish manner, for January 6, is the 12th day of Christmas and it’s also the Feast of the Epiphany. In Ireland it is called both “Little Christmas” and “Women’s Christmas”. The Carrigan Division is proud to celebrate this feast day and honor the accomplishments of the outgoing officers.

Notre Dame Game Day

HERE COME THE IRISH! Regardless of whether you’re a fan of the Golden Domers or just a college football fan, it’s always fun to get together to cheer on the Irish. The Carrigan Division gathers together at least twice a year to sing the Notre Dame fight song and hopefully toast a win.
Hibernian Newsletter

The goal of the new Hibernian Newsletter is to create unity within the Colorado Irish Community through better communication. Each month groups such as the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Network, Denver Gaels, Michael Collins Pipes & Drum Band and the Teach Tábhairne Fógra Historical Journal are asked to submit articles to share what is going on within their organizations. Collectively, along with the most current AOH news and event information, this newsletter showcases the very best of what is going on within the Irish Community in Colorado. If you want to know what’s happening, the Hibernian is your source!

LAOH Trivia Nights

The LAOH holds two annual Trivia Night Fundraisers and the Carrigan Division is proud to support and help with the turnout. The LAOH is appreciative for the continued support whether it be their donations to our prizes or their participation in the actual trivia game. Fundraisers like these allow the LAOH to continue to give back to the community with acts like participate in our turkey donations during Thanksgiving to families in need at Sacred Heart Church and the “adopting” of families at Christmas time where the LAOH donates presents, such as toys and clothing, to families also at Sacred Heart.

Irish Music Night

At least twice a year Division members meet up for a night out on the town including dinner and Irish music. This year the bands included Gaelic Storm and the Elders. What a wonderful way to get to know each other and celebrate our Irish culture.
Christian Charity

Regardless of the size of the event sponsored by the Carrigan Division of the AOH, some portion of the proceeds go to a Catholic charity within the community. Continuing to foster this relationship between the AOH and the Archdiocese of Denver has been very rewarding for each member of the Carrigan Division.

Monthly Samaritan House Volunteer Days

Every second Saturday from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m. the Carrigan Division provides meal service at the Catholic Charities Samaritan House. The Samaritan House is run by Catholic Charities, and is located in downtown Denver, near 23rd St and Lawrence. The Samaritan House opened in 1986, with the express purpose of helping homeless individuals and families. The Samaritan House has the capacity to accommodate 320 persons, and provides them with shelter, hot meals, clothing, medical care and job referral services.

Volunteering with the AOH at the Samaritan House is a fantastic way to provide for those less fortunate than ourselves and to continue the AOH mission of Christian Charity. When our shift is finished, we meet together at a nearby establishment to partake of refreshment and fellowship.

St. John Vianney Theological Seminary

The Carrigan Division is continuing to develop a relationship between the AOH and the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. We can think of no better way to serve the church then to support our future priest. Portions of all donations received by Carrigan Division events are donated to continue the mission of the Seminary.

Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan

A capable and outspoken priest, Fr. Carrigan served at St. Mary’s Parish in Breckenridge, Colorado before moving to St. Patrick’s in Denver in 1886.

This young priest proved to be an able and popular pastor. He paid off the parish debt and, in 1889, enlarged the church and school and aggressively boosted church attendance by urging his flock to bring non-Catholic friends to Mass each Sunday. Fr. Carrigan was also known for his commitment to Christian Charity.
Céad Míle Fáilte—Go raibh grásta Dé leat
One hundred thousand welcomes to you!
May the Grace of God be with you!

Irish? Catholic? We Want You!

Come join an Irish Fraternal Organization with deep seated roots in its ancestry and faith. Just send us an e-mail at denveraoh@gmail.com, or visit http://www.coloradoirish.org, and one of our brothers will be in touch with you.

Sláinte and God Bless!

To be Irish is a blessing. To be a Hibernian—an honor.