



April 2009

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## Next Division Meeting: 4/14/09

The next meeting of the John F. Kennedy Division #1, AOH of Bridgeport will take place on Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gaelic American Club in Fairfield.

Don't forget that's the day before your taxes are due; so get them done and out of the way. (And "invest" some of that refund money with Brother Will Kabel on the Round Tower . . . and checking in with our Financial Secretary Chris Boyle to make sure your '09 dues are paid up.)

**Please make every effort to attend this meeting.  
Call a brother and get him to come, too.**

## 59th Annual Communion Breakfast

It was a grand and glorious day.

Our Division shone brightly through the foggy dew of the early morning on the hills of Monroe as our Piper extraordinaire Brother and County President Art Beagan piped us into St Jude's . Our friend, and Hibernian Brother, Monsignor Sabia was our most gracious host. And we were honored to have His Eminence Bishop William Lori lead the celebration of our annual AOH Mass.

We again packed the Ballroom of the Bridgeport Holiday Inn with hundreds of Brothers, sons and guests. Trumbull First Selectman Brother Ray Baldwin as always was "toastmasterful."

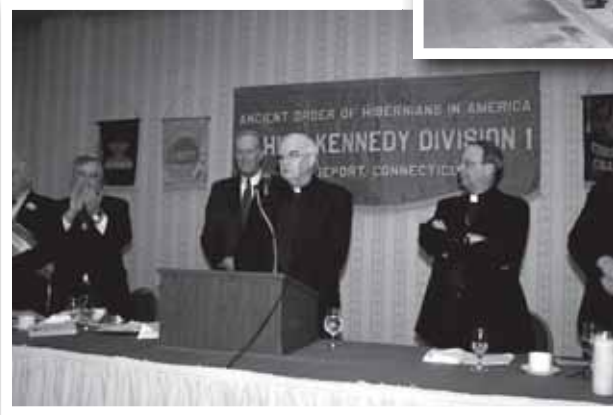
Father Edward Small, S.J., our Division and AOH State Chaplain joined with Past President Ted Lovely in a moving Memorial Service as we all paused to remember our deceased Brothers.

Our speakers could not have been timelier given the local political shenanigans up in Hartford and the recent unsettling violence in northeastern Ireland. Bishop Lori gave us an update on the unprecedented response against anti-Catholic legislation being floated in our state Capitol. Dr. John McGrath provided learned insight on the recent armed activity by Republican splinter groups. And, his recitation of Patrick Pearse's oration at the grave of Fenian legend Jeremiah O'Donovan "Rossa" stirred the soul. Here are the final lines of Pearse:

*"Life springs from death, and from the graves of patriot men and women spring live nations. The defenders of this realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think that they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us, and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything. They think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland un-free shall never be at peace."*

**CHERISH ALL LIFE**

Many thanks to our Communion Breakfast Committee! Chairman Steve Boyle, Chris Boyle, Art Sheehan, Fred Cotter, Ted Lovely, Fr. Small and the Irish Energizer Bunny - Bob O'Sullivan.



## AOH Fairfield County Board Biannual Convention

Saturday April 25th 2009: hosted by John Gildea Division at the Danbury AOH Hall, Main Street Danbury (203) 748-7701. Registration from 10 -11am; Joint Meeting @ 11; Men's Meeting 11:30; Adjournment about 1:30; food and beverages to follow. This is the final meeting before the State Convention and certain subjects need to be discussed. A new Board will be elected and each Division should have candidates in mind. All Division Brothers are very welcome to attend. **All elected officers are asked to attend as a part of the duty of their office.** Further info: County President Art Beagan [artbeagan@optonline.net](mailto:artbeagan@optonline.net) or cell: (203) 451-0143.

## Past State Presidents Brunch

Sunday April 26, 2009: Brunch honoring our Past State Presidents Dave Howe and Bill Scully as well as Past LAOH President Helen Collins. 12- 4 PM at Sullivan's Restaurant (off Route 8) in Derby. For reservations & tickets (\$25) contact Ted Lovely (269-9657) or AOH State VP Bill Flannery at [flannery@optonline.net](mailto:flannery@optonline.net) or (203-968-8000).

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