

Brothers,

I would like to ask all to pray very hard that this snowy winter leaves us as soon as possible. I, for one, can say that I am really sick of snow and I am looking forward to the month of March, Spring, and the Saint Patrick's Day festivities. The third Thursday in March is Saint Patrick's Day, so we will discuss an alternative monthly meeting day at our February meeting. Stay tuned.

The January meeting was a really productive meeting, with lots accomplished. I want to thank our district director Kevin Cummings for attending and leading us in our opening and closing prayers. In addition, we had the great fortune to swear our three newest Brothers, with the Shamrock Degree Ceremony. They are Timothy Doyle, Keith Swingle, and our newest brother, Dave Costello. Congratulations to all of them. My sincere thanks go to our tremendous Marshall, Brother Mike Quinn, for the appropriate setting up of the hall, for our ceremony, and to our Vice President, Brother Jack Fedigan, for the food and refreshments. If you have not made your Shamrock Degree it is important that you take the pledge that is given during the ceremony. Please contact me if you have not.

From the business side, the Charitable Contributions Committee (CCC) met, prior to the meeting, to review last year's financials. From this information we have committed to a budget for charitable donations and a list of requirements which requests should meet. Thanks to Mike Kelly for chairing the committee, and to its members for their efforts. The following brothers have accepted appointments as chairmen for the following events: Mike Quinn (Saint Patrick's Day Parade,) Jack Fedigan (Castle Point Saint Patrick's Celebration,) Mike Kelly (Castle Point Veterans Picnic,) Matt Fitzgerald, Jack Fedigan, Gerry McVicker (Charity Dinner Dance.) We will coordinate a multi brother effort for the Hibernian Hunger Project, as input and details are worked out. Thanks to all for taking a leadership role for these events. I ask all brothers, who wish to support these projects, to contact the responsible chairman. Also, please take the time to thank Gene Noone, on the terrific job he does on our newsletter. He has reminded me that if we renew and get new sponsorships (\$25) for our newsletter it can offset the costs of mailing and printing.

In closing, I want to wish Brother Matt Fitzgerald a great time at the Emerald Ball, when he will be introduced as Grand Marshall of the 2011 Saint Patrick's Day Parade. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Let's hope that the weather cooperates.

God Bless,

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gearoid McVicker
President