



# THE BRIMMER

HAPPY EASTER!

APRIL, 2010

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Easter!! What a difference in the weather a few days can make. As I write this the sun is shining and it is about 70 degrees out, a beautiful spring day. As you celebrate Easter with family and friends, please remember loved ones who have gone before us in your prayers. The occasion of Jesus' resurrection is a reminder that we will see them all again when we join them in heaven.

The St. Patrick's parade day was a good day for our division. Even though the weather was somewhat dreary, Father Smith started our day in his usual fashion celebrating an uplifting Mass at the Wissinoming Yacht Club. The numbers of both the parade participants and observers was down due to the weather but the spirits of the marchers and the crowd were festive and upbeat. The mood at the parade after party at the Yacht Club was one of joy and celebration as members and their guests got their Irish on. Good food, good company and cold beer, it doesn't get better than that. Brother PJ Driscoll did his usual bang up job putting the affair together. He was assisted by Barb Driscoll and Peggy Nicholson, among others.

April is going to be a busy month at 87. On Sunday, April, 11th at 10:00am, the division's annual communion breakfast will be held at Romano's. Father Smith will be our celebrant, and our speaker will be James Fitzsimmons, president of the Malvern Retreat House. Cost is \$20 p/adult and \$12 for children.

At 7:00pm On Thursday, April 22nd, a fundraiser for Autism research is being held at Binlids. Maria Gallagher and Tim Murphy will be the celebrity bartender's and Tommy Wenger will be our DJ. This is a cause that is near and dear to my heart. My son Sean is Autistic. Maria's nephew Bubby is also Autistic. Please stop by and make a donation to this worthy cause.

On Saturday, April 24th, Kieran is hosting the first annual Tom Lavelle Sr. golf tournament. The shotgun start begins at 8:00am you're your entrance fee of \$80.00 gets you a t-shirt, golf and draft beer and food back at Binlids. Come out and celebrate Mr. Lavelle's many contributions to our Division.

Last but not least, I'd like to welcome Tug McGraw back to the island. Tugger spent some quality time in Hahnemann Hospital after setting a new land record for sugar levels (1422!!!!!!) and still remaining on this side of the grass. Tug's doctors told him that he was a medical miracle, well he certainly is "special". Great to have you back Tugger!!!

Yours in our motto,

Tom

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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## TUG'S TALKIN' HERE

Well, I'm back. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. Sometimes, we wonder about our motto. But, I must tell you, that if you are down and almost out, Division 87 will rally around you. Thanks to all, as I am sure that you know, I was rushed to Hahnemann Hospital where I was unconscious for 5 days. My darling children, Michael and Kristin kept a vigil at my bedside, and I am very thankful for their love and concern. I don't want anyone to think that I have had a transformation while in the hospital. Like I said, I am back!

In the last 6 months, with different ailments, I ended up in the ER. Well, as luck would have it, I had the same ER Nurse every time. Well, this sweet, young Lady, asked me if I wanted to carpool, seeing that I was there almost as much as her! My roomie for 5 days in the hospital was a gentleman who has figured it out. It seems that he is homeless and goes from hospital to hospital for extended stays, he told me that in the course of the last 3 years, he has been in different hospitals for a week or more, 41 times. He also told me that his hospital bills total over 4 million dollars. Talk about a medical plan. One day, while in fear of being discharged, he hit the nurse's call button, then, in hopes of being told that he would have to stay, proceeded into the bathroom and then fell down. It worked! He got another day, finally, they had to call security to get him evicted. Just think....what a plan....he had a roof over his head, free TV, plus, pain meds every 4 hours. He was such a pain as a roommate, that I wished that I was back with Tigger as my roommate. Need I say more?

One of my many visitors, Jerry Sproel, as only he could, came to the hospital 2 hours before visiting hours began. He

sat in his car and fed the parking meter. The problem was that he only had enough change for 2 hours and 15 minutes. Thus, when he finally came to my room, he only had 15 minutes to visit because the meter was going to expire. You think that I could make this stuff up? I had a whole battery of Doctors who were amazed that I was still alive. On the day Jerry was there, about 5 heart Docs came in for a checkup. They left and Jerry chased them down the hall to tell them how wonderful the effects of taking fish oil worked. That wasn't bad until he tried to sell them Gene's car!

Softball season begins on Sunday, April 11th, we will be home at Torresdale and Wakeling Sts., 1PM. Stop by and cheer on the home team. Our Manager, Obie, just returned from spring training in Florida. But, again, this year, the Obster forgot to take the team with him.

While in the hospital, I started getting text messages from people that I didn't know, all with a Green Legion theme. I called my son, Michael, to check Quimby's weekly Green Legion Rants email. Well, it seems that Quimby had put my cell number in the rant as a get well message, I received close to 100 text messages, luckily, I had changed my plan to unlimited texts. Thanks again, Quimby, You are the Best! You all know how I sing the praises of the Legion; this is the reason. Top shelf, all of the way!

Like I said, "I am back", thanks again, see you next month!

## NONSENSE....

From **REDS FALCON**

Bill McCue was telling his brother-in-law Tom McDowell how taxes are linked to the American flag. When we get the bill we're red in the face. When we pay we're blue. When we see our statement the next month we turn white as a ghost. And then we see stars.

Here's to you, as good as you are.  
Here's to me as bad as I am.  
As good as you are and as bad as I am,  
I'm as good as you are, as bad as I am.

Bumper sticker spotted in the Binlid parking lot on one of the older member's car. I'm RETIRED I was tired yesterday, and I'm tired again today.

One of the perks of being over 60 and heading towards 70 is; in a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

Never, under any circumstance, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electrons." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

"Do you realize that in about forty years, we'll have millions of old ladies running around with tattoos and pierced navels?" (Now that's scary!)

One of the nuns at Nativity asked her class to write something they remembered about their class on the bible. Little Jim Fennerty wrote: God said 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Tigger's mother taught him about his roots. She said "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

In one of Father Smith's sermons he said people are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Happy Easter!

Reds

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PLEASE OFFER YOUR  
PRAYERS FOR THE  
SICK AND SOULS OF  
THE DECEASED  
LISTED BELOW

**Sick**

Evelyn Hanlon  
Bob McClelland  
Tommy Meehan  
Ted Pusko  
Jim Simpson  
Mary Daily  
Danny Carr  
Chuck Reed  
Gerry O'Hanlon  
Jack Brown  
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George Lees Sr.  
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Patty Palowski  
Donald Lynch  
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Marty Joyce  
Pat McGee  
Jim Hartey  
Rose Donnelly  
John Foley  
Bill Eder  
Glen Miller  
Baby Boyle  
Erin Murphy  
Paul Martin  
Linda Glasgow  
Bill McQue  
Tim Murphy  
Frank "Tug" McGraw  
Dorothy Smith  
Jack O'Neill  
Bill Glenhill

**Deceased**

Gene Spoerl  
Eric Bee  
Mary Laxton  
Jim Kilgowan

## IRISH SLAVERY

**Editor's Note:** This is part 2 of a 3 part story about a topic that is either forgotten, misunderstood or ignored.

by James F. Cavanaugh for [www.RaceandHistory.com](http://www.RaceandHistory.com)

### Cromwell's Reign of Terror

In 1649, Cromwell landed in Ireland and attacked Drogheda, slaughtering some 30,000 Irish living in the city. Cromwell reported: "I do not think 30 of their whole number escaped with their lives. Those that did are in safe custody in the Barbados." A few months later, in 1650, 25,000 Irish were sold to planters in St. Kitt. During the 1650s decade of Cromwell's Reign of Terror, over 100,000 Irish children, generally from 10 to 14 years old, were taken from Catholic parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England. In fact, more Irish were sold as slaves to the American colonies and plantations from 1651 to 1660 than the total existing "free" population of the Americas!

But all did not go smoothly with Cromwell's extermination plan, as Irish slaves revolted in Barbados in 1649. They were hanged, drawn and quartered and their heads were put on pikes, prominently displayed around Bridgetown as a warning to others. Cromwell then fought two quick wars against the Dutch in 1651, and thereafter monopolized the slave trade. Four years later he seized Jamaica from Spain, which then became the center of the English slave trade in the Caribbean.

On 14 August 1652, Cromwell began his Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland, ordering that the Irish were to be transported overseas, starting with 12,000 Irish prisoners sold to Barbados. The infamous "Connaught or Hell" proclamation was issued on 1 May 1654, where all Irish were ordered to be removed from their lands and relocated west of the Shannon or be transported to the West Indies. Those who have been to County Clare, a land of barren rock will understand what an impossible position such an order placed the Irish. A local sheep owner claimed that Clare had the tallest sheep in the world, standing some 7 feet at the withers, because in order to live, there was so little food, they had to graze at 40 miles per hour. With no place to go and stay alive, the Irish were slow to respond. This was an embarrassing problem as Cromwell had financed his Irish expeditions through business investors, who were promised Irish estates as dividends, and his soldiers were promised freehold land in exchange for their services. To speed up the relocation process, a reinforcing law was passed on 26 June 1657 stating: "Those who fail to transplant themselves into Connaught or Co Clare within six months... Shall be attained of high treason... are to be sent into America or some other parts beyond the seas... those banished who return are to suffer the pains of death as felons by virtue of this act, without benefit of Clergy."

Although it was not a crime to kill any Irish, and soldiers were encouraged to do so, the slave trade proved too profitable to kill off the source of the product. Privateers and chartered shippers sent gangs out with quotas to fill, and in their zest as they scoured the countryside, they inadvertently kidnapped a number of English too. On March 25, 1659, a petition of 72 Englishmen was received in London, claiming they were illegally "now in slavery in the Barbados". The petition also claimed that "7,000-8,000 Scots taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester in 1651 were sold to the British plantations in the New World," and that "200 Frenchmen had been kidnapped, concealed and sold in Barbados for 900 pounds of cotton each."

Subsequently some 52,000 Irish, mostly women and sturdy boys and girls, were sold to Barbados and Virginia alone. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were taken prisoners and ordered transported and sold as slaves. In 1656, Cromwell's Council of State ordered that 1000 Irish girls and 1000 Irish boys be rounded up and taken to Jamaica to be sold as slaves to English planters. As horrendous as these numbers sound, it only reflects a small part of the evil program, as most of the slaving activity was not recorded. There were no tears shed amongst the Irish when Cromwell died in 1660.

The Irish welcomed the restoration of the monarchy, with Charles II duly crowned, but it was a hollow expectation. After reviewing the profitability of the slave trade, Charles II chartered the Company of Royal Adventurers in 1662, which later became the Royal African Company. The Royal Family, including Charles II, the Queen Dowager and the Duke of York, then contracted to supply at least 3000 slaves annually to their chartered company. They far exceeded their quotas.

There are records of Irish sold as slaves in 1664 to the French on St. Bartholomew, and English ships which made a stop in Ireland enroute to the Americas, typically had a cargo of Irish to sell on into the 18th century. Few people today realize that from 1600 to 1699, far more Irish were sold as slaves than Africans.

**Slaves or Indentured Servants**

There has been a lot of whitewashing of the Irish slave trade, partly by not mentioning it, and partly by labeling slaves as indentured servants. There were indeed indentureds, including English, French, Spanish and even a few Irish. But there is a great difference between the two. Indentures bind two or more parties in mutual obligations. Servant indentures were agreements between an individual and a shipper in which the individual agreed to sell his services for a period of time in exchange for passage, and during his service, he would receive proper housing, food, clothing, and usually a piece of land at the end of the term of service. It is believed that some of the Irish that went to the Amazon settlement after the Battle of Kinsale and up to 1612 were exiled military who went voluntarily, probably as indentureds to Spanish or Portuguese shippers.

However, from 1625 onward the Irish were sold, pure and simple as slaves. There were no indenture agreements, no protection, no choice. They were captured and originally turned over to shippers to be sold for their profit. Because the profits were so great, generally 900 pounds of cotton for a slave, the Irish slave trade became an industry in which everyone involved (except the Irish) had a share of the profits.

*Next Month:* Part 3 of 3 - The Slave Trade and the Irish.

***UPCOMING EVENTS***

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Division 87 Communion Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Sunday, April 11, 2010  <b>Time:</b> 10:00am (Mass)  <b>Location:</b> Romano’s Catering          (1523 Wingohocking St)  <b>Price:</b> \$20/pers, \$12/child (12 &amp; under)</p> <p>Father Vincent Smith OSFS, will celebrate mass. Following mass will be breakfast. The guest speaker will be Mr James Fitzsimmons, president of the Malvern Retreat House.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For Tickets, contact:</b>          Terry Welsh 215-280-5992,          George Lees 215-427-2834 or          Maria Gallagher 1-609-304-7929</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Celebrity Bartending for Autism</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Thursday, April 22, 2010  <b>Time:</b> 6:00PM - ???  <b>Location:</b> Binlids</p> <p>Autism Awareness Fundraiser- Tommy Healy (AOH #87 President) and Maria Gallagher (LAOH #87 President) will be bartending at Division’s own Binlid. Tommy’s son Sean and Maria’s nephew David are both “very special young men” who bring so much joy to our families. Being autistic has not stopped them one bit from enjoying life. All tips and donations will be sent to Autism Speaks and Bubby’s Buddies (David’s families foundation to support autism) in their names. Enjoy music, appetizers and much more.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inaugural Tom LaVelle Golf Outing</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Saturday, April 24, 2010  <b>Time:</b> 8:30am tee off  <b>Location:</b> Juniata Golf Course  <b>Price:</b> \$80/golfer.</p> <p>Best ball format. \$80.00 per golfer. All proceeds to go to AOH 87 home and Charities. Golfers and hole sponsors needed. Please contact Kieran McGovern 267 249-7632.</p> <p>Get your registration form at our website:  <a href="http://www.AOH87.com">www.AOH87.com</a></p>
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## NORTH CATHOLIC UPDATE BY FALCON MIKE

As I'm sure you are aware, the first part of the North Catholic/Cristo Rey feasibility study has been completed. Unfortunately, the timing doesn't allow for a transition to a Cristo Rey Network school for the 2010-2011 school year. The next phase of the feasibility study will be lead by the Oblates of St Francis DeSales, with a possible assist by the Philadelphia Archdiocese. The plan is to complete the study and have a new North Catholic, as a Cristo Rey Network school, open in time for the 2011-2012 school year.

Some things that may not be known by the masses is that some of the NC alumni, who were part of the planning team, approached the Archdiocese with a request to keep North open, as an Archdiocesan school, for the 2010-2011 school year. The reasoning was that doing this would allow for a smooth transition of the school and faculty, and would keep some continuity as far as the student body. This was a long shot going in, and that long shot didn't happen. Despite a promise to pay any/all debts of the school for the next year, just as the debt has been paid for each and every year for the past 7, and despite a viable plan to transition to a private school, the Archdiocese turned down the request. What this means is that if the school is re-opened for the 2011 school year, it will be 5 years between graduating classes at North.

### Timeline

In 1993, the Archdiocese met with all of the schools regarding open enrollment, debt, etc. It was conveyed to the schools that as long as the system, as a whole, was making money, no individual school would be held accountable for their debt. So, from 1993 through 2002, the Archdiocese never asked for money from North. But, beginning in 2003, and through the current year, the Archdiocese presented North with a bill for their shortfall (expenses - tuition collected). Each of the past 7 years, with help from the NC Alumni Association, Friends of Northeast Catholic, and other donations, the annual debt was paid in full. What that means is

that since the Archdiocese began asking for money, the North Catholic community has come through and paid off any/all debt accrued by the school. If your question is "So, why didn't they allow the school to stay open for one more year while the transition to Cristo Rey was completed?", then you are just as confused as I am. But, that seems to be the way the folks downtown work these days.

### What does all of this mean?

With the Oblates running the next phase of the feasibility study, my guess is that North Catholic will close in June, and never re-open. This is just my opinion, but I firmly believe that the Oblates will be too busy running Salesianum and Father Judge, to worry about North Catholic. In other words, it'll be business as usual. My guess is that with West Catholic's enrollment at such low numbers, the Archdiocese will push them to convert to a Cristo Rey school, and they'll give them enough time and resources to get that school up and running in West Philadelphia. But, once again, that's just my opinion. Father Smith announced at the NC Alumni Communion breakfast that all current North students would be considered NC alumni. This may be how the Oblates or the archdiocese sees it, but you can bet that the alumni association will only consider the current class of graduating seniors as alumni, as far as the association is concerned. Now, this isn't written in stone, but if I were a betting man, I'd bet on this becoming fact real soon.

### The NC Alumni Association

The Alumni Association will continue to operate. Remember, the association is a fraternal organization, which assists with reunions and raises money to support programs near and dear to the membership. The association consists of three separate corporations; The Northeast Catholic Alumni Association, Inc, The Save Northeast Catholic Fund, and the Northeast Catholic Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund. Since the Save Northeast Catholic Fund was created to assist the school with capital improvements and debt, and with the school officially closing in June, this corporation has been dissolved, and as per the rules of that organization, all re-

maining funds have been transferred to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The Alumni Scholarship Fund will be changing it's purpose. The fund was originally created to provide college scholarships for North grads who were attending DeSales University (formerly Allentown College). Later, it was changed to provide tuition assistance to incoming North students. Now, with the school closing, any current awards to existing North underclassmen, will be honored, provided the students continues to qualify academically (as per the award contract) and that student is attending a high school in the Philadelphia Archdioceses. Moving forward, the scholarship fund will provide three types of tuition assistance.

**Type:** College

**Schools:** Catholic College/Universities in Philadelphia Region

**Length :** 4 years

**Eligibility:** Current NC seniors, dues paying NC alumni, children/grandchildren of dues paying NC Alumni.

**Type:** High School

**Schools:** High schools in Philadelphia, Camden and Trenton Dioceses

**Length:** 4 years

**Eligibility:** Children/Grandchildren of dues paying NC Alumni.

**Type:** Elementary Schools

**Schools:** Elementary Schools in Philadelphia, Camden and Trenton Diocese

**Length:** 3 years (6th thru 8th grades)

**Eligibility:** Children /Grandchildren of dues paying NC Alumni.

**Please Note:** All scholarships will be based on academics and financial need. To be eligible, the father or grandfather of the prospective students must be a current dues paying member of the Northeast Catholic Alumni Association. Call the NC Alumni office for more information. 215-289-4994.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS & DUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

**AOH Division 87**

**Port Richmond, Philadelphia**

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- \$200 for members
- \$175 for Brick Members
- \$35 for bartender
- \$20 cleanup

Overtime on rentals is available for an additional \$50, with a 1-hour limit. Weekday funeral luncheons are available @ \$175 for non-members; \$50 for members

- Beer (per 1/2 barrel)..... \*
- Liquor (per liter)..... \*
- Premium Liqour (per liter)..... \*
- Wine (1/2 gallon)..... \*
- Soda (case)..... \*
- Orange Juice (1/2 gallon)..... \*
- Table Covers (each)..... \*
- Wine Coolers (case)..... \*
- Non-alcoholic Beer (O'Doul's) case... \*
- Ice (40lbs)..... \*

To arrange for rental of the hall,  
 contact Jim Dougherty at 215-335-4470  
 \* - Call for prices

**RANDOM THOUGHTS**

**April Meeting**

**DATE:** TUES, APRIL 13, 2010  
**TIME:** 7:30PM (SHARP)  
**LOCATION:** DONNELLY HALL  
 2171 WAKELING ST



**IF GOD SENDS YOU  
 DOWN A STONY  
 PATH,  
 MAY HE GIVE YOU  
 STRONG SHOES. .**

**Dues**

AOH DIVISION ANNUAL FOR 2010 SHOULD BE PAID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU WISH TO PAY YOUR 2010 DUES, PLEASE SEE GEORGE LEES JR AT THE NEXT MEETING OR CUT OUT THE FORM ABOVE AND MAIL TO GEORGE, ALONG WITH A CHECK..

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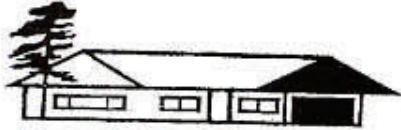
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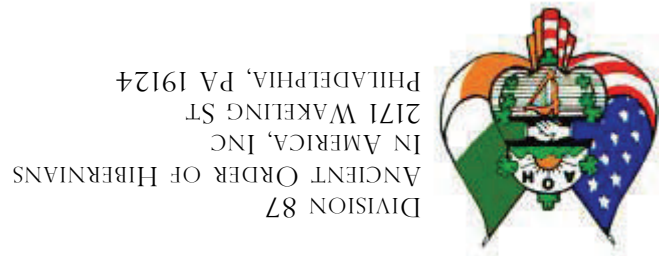


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