



LAOH PA STATE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

I can't believe it has been over a year since you elected me as your State President. Time has gone by so quickly. We are less than a year out to our next State Convention which will be held in King of Prussia, the week of July 14-17. So mark your calendars! Rae Dispaldo is Co-Chair for the LAOH with Ed Halligan Co-Chair for the AOH. More news will be following as time gets closer.

Our last State Board meeting was held in Johnstown, Cambria County, April 17 and it was a very productive meeting. You should be proud how hard the women of your State Board work for our membership. I would like to thank Juanita Canary and her Division for welcoming the Pennsylvania State Board and membership who attended. It was fantastic to meet sisters from Cambria who have never met the State Board.

I attended the past National Convention in Cincinnati this past July. We voted on new Constitutional changes and elected our new National Board. I will report in further detail in a follow-up letter after our State Board meeting.

You all should have received your letters announcing our next State Board meeting in Pittsburgh, October 2nd. I welcome all of my sisters to attend to meet your board.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, Christian Charity,
Colleen D. Bowers
PA State LAOH President

NATIONAL MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

I had the honor of being elected to the office of Missions and Charities at the National Convention in July. I look forward to working in this office for the next two years.

Due to the generosity of our membership over the last two years the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were able to make the following donations:

COLUMBAN FATHERS	\$ 49,147.00
COLUMBAN SISTERS	\$ 29,164.00
DANIELLE HOUSE	\$ 9,748.00

We were able to donate to 10 charities that had appealed for aid. The Ronald Mc Donald House Philadelphia was one of the charities that received a donation.

The third charity that the delegates elected to sponsor for the next two years is PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER, INC. located in Los Alamitos, California. Precious Life Shelter provides a temporary home for pregnant women of ages 18 and over regardless of race, creed or marital status who have chosen life for their unborn children. They provide counseling services in nutrition, parenting, health, educational aid and job training.

As always The Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters are our main charities. I look forward to working with each of you over the next two years.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Sarah Mains
LAOH National Missions and Charities Officer



PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters,

Per the request of Past National President, Mary Paglione, who served as Ritual Chair at the 95th Biennial National Convention, I have updated Page 32 to reflect the approved minor change, Copies of pages 31-34 for Insertion into your Ritual Book have been forwarded TO THE Supply Chair for availability:

Peggy Cornish = 141 N. Kinsella Ave., Covina, CA. 91724 LAOHPeggy@AOL.com 626-331-3905

In my role as Immediate Past National President, I was responsible for the Organization, Development and Support of new States of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. In January 2010, I installed the St. Brigid, Division #1 New Castle County, Newark, Delaware. State #28.

President: Stella Carrigan, 401 Jackson Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804 302-633-0810

stellacarrigan@comcast.net

I also organized in May 2010 the State of Tucson, Arizona. It was the request of President Kim Hickey and Organizer, Lynn Marie Jarzombek that the Installation be held in September 2010 due to 90 degree temperatures in the summer months that account for vacations and out of town trips. State #29 is in the process of schedule planning for Installation - September 2010.

I am always available for any assistance.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Dorothy Flaherty Weldon

Past National President, Past State President, Mary Ellen Division #4, President Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



TREASURER

Angel Fund – What is it?

This is a fund set up for our sisters across the state that are medically home bound or in a nursing home. Your division or county treasurer can apply for this fund for your LAOH sister that meets the criteria. This will waive for your sister the \$5 state per capita tax that is charged and paid through your annual reporting. A copy of the form is available on the state website <http://www.statepalaoh.com>

A letter has being sent to all treasurers so that they can get the word out regarding the Angel Fund. The deadline is 9/30/2010 for application.

Non-Profit Filing

You may have seen recent articles regarding losing your division/county/state non-profit status if you don't file certain forms with the IRS. ***You don't have to do anything.*** When you (as the division or county treasurer) file your annual report, the report is compiled with all state reports. The compiled reports are sent to the National Treasurer and she takes care of our filing. Mary Hogan, National Treasurer addressed this at the National Convention. I have received numerous e-mails regarding this issue and Theresa O'Connell (newly elected National Treasurer) will be addressing this very issue in her upcoming introduction letter. That is why as treasurer of your division or county, it is so important to list all donations and specify those that are non-profit (501c3) on the form.

Also, many divisions as well as counties have been approached by tax preparation companies, trying to solicit business by telling the president or treasurer that the division/county needs to file the above mentioned forms. As stated earlier, all the proper paperwork for the Order is filed by the National Treasurer. By working with these various companies, you are doing nothing more than throwing your money away.

Annual Reports

Thank you to all the divisions and counties that filed their reports on time. You were all a pleasure to work with last year. I will get your forms out to you as soon as I get them along with specific instructions from the National Treasurer.

Due Dates remain the same:

1/15/2011 – for divisions without county boards to State Treasurer

2/15/2011 – for divisions with county boards - your county treasurer should get your report no later than 1/15/2011 as she needs to compile a county report from your records. Counties to State Treasurer by 2/15/2011.

Fines will be imposed if I receive them late. Thanks for your cooperation as always.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, Christian Charity,
Ellen McCrane
PA State LAOH Treasurer

IRISH HISTORIAN

Irish History Contest for 2009-2010

There were entries from ten different counties, with a total of 55 entries. Winners were as follows:

Level I (grades 6,7 and 8) THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN 1916 REBELLION

1st PLACE	Peter Reinert, Montgomery County
2nd PLACE	Nicholas Ozorowski, Montgomery County
3rd PLACE	Amber DiFabio, Chester County
HON MEN	Laura Page, Allegheny County
HON MEN	Jamie Hartman, Carbon County

Level II (grades 9, 10 and 11) THE IRISH PLAYING THE GAME: THE SPORTS OF THE WORLD

1st PLACE	Shannon Kiley Smith, Washington County
2nd PLACE	Amy Vogrig, Washington County
3rd PLACE	Caroline Collins, Mercer County
HON MEN	Caitlin O'Neil, Mercer County
HON MEN	Emily Costantino, Washington County

And to bring further honor to the state of PA, the following were also winners on a National Level:

2nd Place--Level II--Amy Vogrig, Washington County
Honorable Mention--Level II
Caroline Collins, Mercer County
Shannon Kiley Smith, Washington County

Congratulations to all winners, and a thank you to all participants. Hope to have entries from all of you next year.

The contest opens September 2010. Deadlines for the contest are:

Division - January 10, 2011

County - February 14, 2011

State - March 14, 2011

National - April 11, 2011

SUBJECTS:

Level 1: The History of the Seannachie (Shanachie) - Traveling Story Tellers

Level 2: The Fighting 69th - Then and Now

All children in levels 6-12 attending public, private, parochial and home schools are eligible to enter. For more information, please see the LAOH National website at: <http://www.ladiesaoh.com/historycontest.html>

Yours in Friendship, Unity, Christian Charity,
Rae Dispaldo
PA State LAOH Irish Historian

(Provided by Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin, PA State LAOH Immigration & Legislation)

Father Tom O'Donnell, AOH National Chaplain, delivered the Homily at a Mass celebrated at old St. Patrick's Church in Pittsburgh in remembrance of the 1981 Hunger Strikes. Several Irish organizations participated and the LAOH was well represented by State Board President Colleen Bowers carrying a portrait of one of the 10 men who died on hunger strike into the Church and National Board Chair Sally Mains doing the 2nd reading as well as a nice turn out of other sisters. Danny O'Connell AOH Immigration Chair from Youngstown OH as well as Sean Pender from New Jersey and his family were also in attendance. Fr. O'Donnell's homily is a powerful message that should be read and shared.

Hunger Striker's Mass-2010

Today we commemorate the 29th year of the Hunger Strikers of 1981, who sacrificed their young for the cause of freedom, justice, peace and reconciliation. These ten Irish martyrs – Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond Mc Cresh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Rom Mc Elwee, Kevin Lynch, Keiran Doherty, and Michael Devine were all martyrs for the sake of their Catholic faith and freedom for all Ireland. These heroes were confined in the H-Blocks of the Maze prison, more infamously known as Long Kesh. These ten Republican prisoners went on a hunger strike with five demands, the most potent being that they refused to be treated as criminals. After the hunger strike was completed these ten brave Irishmen had made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for what they believed in – that they had the right to be free Irishmen.

In some ways the sacrifice and death of the Hunger Strikers has now been somewhat vindicated. Within the past several weeks some good news came out recently with regard to the Maze prison, more infamously known as Long Kesh. Martin McGuinness, the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland announced recently "The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister will shortly submit a European Union funding application for a Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Facility on the site of the Maze, Long Kesh prison." "It is anticipated that the center will be a world-class facility of international importance designed to strengthen our peace-building expertise and to share our experiences with others throughout the world."

Finally this prison of torture and horror where the Hunger Strikers gave their lives will be turned into a positive sight for peace and reconciliation not only for Ireland but the rest of the world.

However, in addition to Hunger Strikers of 1981 let us also remember the many thousands of other Irish martyrs who have died as a result of British tyranny – We also remember the Bloody Sunday martyrs of January 30, 1972. On that Bloody Sunday a dark cloud descended over Derry City and remained for thirty eight years until Tuesday, June 15, 2010. On that day, about one month ago, the ghost of the British Army was banished from the streets and the dignity and pride of the people of Derry returned as the Lord Saville report exonerated the Bloody Sunday martyrs of any wrongdoing. Prime Minister David Cameron offered an extraordinary apology for the 1972 killings of the unarmed demonstrated by the British soldier saying that the long awaited judicial inquiry left no doubt that the Bloody Sunday killings were both unjustified and unjustifiable. Mr. Cameron went on to relate that there was no justification for the shooting of the civilian casualties. One of the most damaging sentences in the Saville report stated that one of the victims was shot while crawling away from the soldiers and another while he was lying mortally wounded on the ground.

Although there has been some measure of justice and peace now for the martyrs of Bloody Sunday, it must be remembered that in Ballymurphy six months earlier the same Para-Military Regiment – shot dead 11 innocent victims and in Springhill five month later they shot dead 5 more. Justice peace must still be given to the families and the victims of the Ballymurphy and Springhill murders.

In the past thirty eight years since Bloody Sunday, and in the past twenty nine years since the death of the Hunger Strikers there have been many significant gains and progress towards the freedom for all Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and its further implementation during the past several years is one step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, sometimes with a measure of success, there also comes apathy. Some may think that the struggle for a peaceful reunification is over. However, we must remember that the dissidents will continue to fight to prevent and derail the unification process. Therefore, it is of prime importance that we as Irish American Catholics continue to have a new strength and purpose. We must continue to lobby our politicians on the National, State, County and Municipal levels to support the United Ireland Resolution, so that, God willing, we will have a United Ireland in 2016, the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising.

If we are going to achieve true peace, justice and reconciliation in our beloved Ireland, in addition to lobbying the politicians on the worldly level, it is even more important that we continue to lobby and pray to our Father, Christ and Holy Spirit in Heaven for that peace that only God can give.

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah we read: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, ^[b] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

The vision of Isaiah is not simply a kind of justice that is imposed upon us. It rather fills the soul of each person and emanates out. There is justice socially because each person is filled with compassion and meets the needs of those around them. When the writers of the gospel looked back on the life of Jesus and remembered the prophecies of Isaiah, they called him the 'Prince of Peace'. At the heart of the message that Jesus came to deliver us, is the gospel of peace. It is not just a footnote, nor an editorial comment in the margins, it is central. When Jesus sent out his disciples, in the gospel of Luke, they carried no physical protection, not even a purse or a bag for support. And he tells them, to each house you enter, say "Peace be upon this house and if a child of peace lives in that house, your peace shall rest upon them." In the gospel of John, just before he is arrested, Jesus speaks to his disciples, summarizing everything that he wants to tell them. There, he speaks of the importance of dwelling in love and then he says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, not as the world gives... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither be afraid."

And so as Irish American Catholics, every one of us is called to bring the message of Christ, his message of peace and reconciliation to all the world but especially to our brothers and sisters of Northern Ireland. The simple prayer attributed to St. Francis describes the spiritual disposition that all of us should have as we pray for peace and reconciliation not only in Northern Ireland but throughout the whole world.

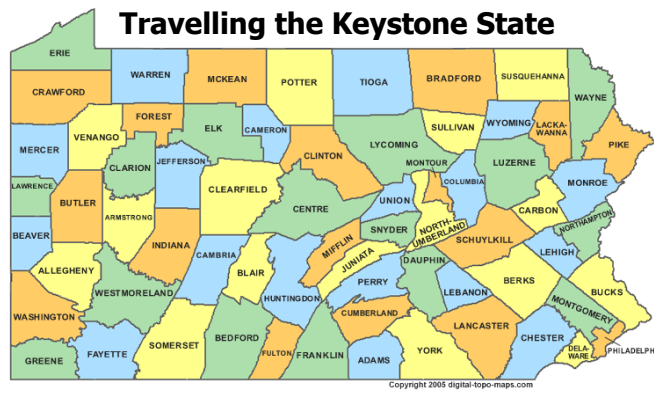
"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred . . . let me sow love
Where there is injury . . . pardon
Where there is doubt . . . faith
Where there is despair . . . hope
Where there is darkness . . . light
Where there is sadness . . . joy

Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled . . . as to console
To be understood . . . as to understand,
To be loved . . . as to love
For it is in giving . . . that we receive,
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned,
It is in dying . . . that we are born to eternal life .

May the ten Hunger Strikers of 1981 as well as all the Irish martyrs who have died for the cause of peace, justice, reconciliation and freedom for all Ireland, continue to find eternal peace and rest.

National, State, County and Division 11 members pose with National AOH Chaplain Fr. Tom O'Donnell at the celebration of his 50th Anniversary in the priesthood.





ALLEGHENY COUNTY

The Allegheny County LAOH Board sponsored its annual St. Bridget Mass at the Greentree Radisson on January 31st. The new Division presidents were sworn in at this communion breakfast.



On Sunday, August 15, the Allegheny County Board sponsored a Lady of Knock mass at the Duquesne University Chapel. Representatives from the national, state, county and divisions participated in the mass by processing up to the alter carrying a golden rose in honor of Our Lady of Knock. Immediately following the mass, a reception was held where all gathered for a group picture.

Division #11 – The Oakland Irish

In March, members of the Division travelled with other LAOH and AOH members to participate in the annual Girardville Parade. A grand time was had by all and a Second LAOH Marching Unit trophy was brought back to Pittsburgh!

Division #32 – Maud Gonne

The members of both AOH & LAOH Division #32 celebrated their annual Communion Breakfast in April. One of the speakers was US Representative Tim Murphy, AOH Div #32 member. Here he is, surrounded by the LAOH members in attendance.



BERKS COUNTY

Division #1, Reading, PA

The members of Division #1 celebrated their 21st anniversary on Saturday June 12 with Mass at St. Ignatius followed by a brunch and brief meeting at the home of Mary Pearsall. This annual celebration is always well attended. They then adjourned for the summer.

On Saturday, August 14 and Sunday August 15, several sisters assisted our AOH brothers at the soup kitchen at Kennedy House in Reading. They always find this a rewarding event.

Both the AOH and LAOH attended a Mass in honor of Our Lady of Knock at St. Margaret's Church in Reading. The celebrant was Fr. John Gibbons, the AOH Chaplain. A dinner followed at the Elks Club.

Our September meeting will be held at the home of Bonnie Collins followed by a wine and cheese tasting.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Cambria County hosted the PA LAOH State Board meeting in April. Thanks go out to Juanita Canary and all the members of Division 1!!



Fr. Francis X. Hanley spoke at the April LAOH PA State Board meeting held in Johnstown, PA

CARBON COUNTY

12. TIMES NEWS

VIEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010



New LAOH officers attend Feast Day Mass

The recently installed new officers of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), Molly Maguires Division 1, Mauch Chunk Pennsylvania attended the Feast Day Mass for St. Brigid of Ireland at Immaculate Conception Church in Jim Thorpe Monday. Pictured together just before the start of the Mass are, left to right: Agnes Busocker, Mistress at Arms; Bernadette Behan, Missions and Charities; Kathy Arner, Recording Secretary; Joan O'Donnell, Vice President; Rita O'Donnell, Sentinel; Jean O'Donnell, Freedom for All Ireland and Immigration & Legislation; Bernadette McGinley, Treasurer; Sharon Choley, President; Peggy Sue O'Donnell, Irish Historian; Jeanie Klein, Catholic Actions; and Fran Dugan, Correspondence.

The members of Molly Maguire's Div 1 celebrated the feast day of St. Brigid in January. Pictured at left are their new Division officers.

In June they attended the Day of the Rope Mass, and in August, the Our Lady of Knock Mass.

CHESTER COUNTY

Cathleen Ni Houlihan Division #1 of Chester County held their third annual Spring Tea on April 25 as a fund raiser for Mom's House in Phoenixville, which is one of several charities that the group supports. We had a wonderful warming tea on a rainy April day at lovely home of a member Nancy Coyne. There were 58 women at the tea this year and a guest speaker from Mom's House. Between the raffle baskets, that had been donated, and ticket sales we were able to make a \$1411 donation to Mom's House. As an added part of the good works for Mom's House, a small group of Chester Co. LAOH members planted flowers in their front garden on May 1.

Chester Co. LAOH does do continual support of St. Agnes Dayroom by having food collections at each meeting for the food pantry there and at Christmas time our members make donations of gift cards to be distributed at the Dayroom to families. The division also helped paint the front porch of St. Mary's Shelter in Phoenixville last Fall.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

JFK Division #1 (Scranton) sponsored the Lady of Knock Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral. Representatives from the LAOH attended. The Lackawanna County Board meeting will be held on Sat. Oct 25th, hosted by Division #5 (Scranton.)

JFK Division #1, Scranton

After a brief recess from duties, LAOH Division #1 will resume its monthly meetings on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The Irish Cultural Society will again be the location where discussion and scheduling of activities will take place. Of course, we must not forget the business session – the most important item on the agenda. As a faithful Christian Charity affiliate, please remember Giny Doyle in prayer as she recently underwent bypass surgery of the heart.

Farewell Summer and Welcome Fall!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Notre Dame Division #2, Swedesburg

April 2010 - We joined the AOH at St. Mary Church in Phoenixville for the AOH Communion Mass. St. Mary is a very old and beautiful church.

May 2010 - We are a Blessed Mother group and May is very special to us. We have a May Procession which includes a May Queen who was voted by the membership in April. This year, Alice Deegan (our Recording Secretary) was chosen. Our May Queen crowns the Blessed Mother, hymns are sung and the rosary is recited. All look forward to honoring Mary in May, her month. There was another Ceili held at the AOH Hall. Since many LAOH and AOH members take lessons from our own Veronica Bradley from Co Derry, the Ceilis are most enjoyable with everyone trying out all the steps that Veronica has taught them.

June 2010 - June is a special time for us as the AOH have their huge Irish Festival at St. Michaels in Mont Clare, PA. Our LAOH Division is there to support the AOH and to sell some goods ourselves. Friday night there is a Ceili. Sunday at noon, there is a Mass held outdoors. It's a lot of work but everyone enjoys the Festival and funds are increased.

August, 2010 - Our Mass of the Golden Rose is held in honor of Our Lady of Knock. Every woman in church is given a golden rose to present to Our Lady in procession after Communion. Irish hymns are sung. After Mass, St. Patrick Church holds its annual Irish Festival. It's a very special day and everyone looks forward to it.

Division #6 Margaret T. Welsh, Montgomery County

In our effort to keep the Irish spirit alive and well in southwestern Montgomery County, we hosted the second Ladies Irish Tea in July. It was once again a wonderful time. LAOH members and friends from a wide area came together in our motto. We learned about "tea" and had fun learning the ins and outs of tea service. Our wonderful guest speaker was Deborah Fox of "Help! The Fairie Folk Hid My Ancestors". She had great insight in how to get started looking for our Irish past and many of the reasons why it is so difficult. Last June we had a picnic meeting and in September we will have a luncheon meeting. Before long it will be December and the Christmas party. We are trying our very best to interest younger women in the cause of our Irish culture.

PHILADELPHIA

Congratulations are in order for our County President, Kathy Fanning who received the prestigious honor, along with Bernadette Boyle, of Lifetime Membership for 25 years of serve to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. We are very proud of the fine dedication of these two ladies to Philadelphia County and Division #39.

Things around the Philadelphia County have been quite during the summer months except for the HHP Bowling Team that was established. For 6 weeks this summer members of all different divisions met on Tuesday evening and bowled 3 games at Thunderbird Lane for fun and to raise money for the Hibernian Hunger Project. Each member paid \$8.00 a week with \$5.00 going to HHP. It was a fun time for all and a great way to raise money to feed those in need. Also a "Happy Hour at the Jersey Shore" took place in July. Celebrity bartenders from Divisions #17, 87 and Cape May County Division #1 served up drinks with all tips going to HHP. Total raised at the door, 50/50 and with tips was \$2,000.00!!!!

Plans are in the works for our September meeting being hosted by LAOH Division #61 at their clubhouse on 09/30/10. It is always a fun time when we are able to get all 9 Philadelphia LAOH Divisions together for a meeting and catch up what everyone has been doing or has coming up for the Fall. Each division is so unique with different fundraiser and charity that they sponsor. Also gives us a change to eat, drink and socialize!!!

Our annual County sponsored "Our Lady of Knock Mass" was celebrated on her feast day, Saturday August 21, 2010 at Holy Name Church in Fishtown. All AOH/LAOH Divisions are asked to attend in honor of Our Blessed Lady. A bouquet of yellow roses was placed at the newly erected shrine at the rectory of Holy Name Church by the members of AOH/LAOH Division #87. Thanks also go to our host AOH/LAOH Division #51, Philadelphia County and Phila. Catholic Action Officer Kathy Cantz and anyone else involved. Always a great tribute to Mary.

Division #87- Our Lady of Knock

After this hot and humid summer, the ladies will be back in September to pick up where we left off in June. We will be meeting on September 07, 2010 to catch up and start planning our events for the Fall. First off we are helping with a Benefit for a Friend being held to assist our #87 brother, Mike Kennedy who is undergoing chemo treatments at this time. Mike is only in his 40s and expecting his third child so we are making Chinese auction baskets and selling tickets.

On November 07, 2010 we will have our Celtic Tea. It is one of annual fundraiser and a lot of fun for all. Our Junior girls help out with making and serving sandwiches, scones and tea. The Ireland Dancers come and perform while teaching some easy dance steps to the ladies.

The Annual AOH/LAOH Hibernian Ball is scheduled for November 13, 2010. We start off with Mass and then to Romano's Catering Hall for a fabulous buffet dinner and award ceremony.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Division #4, Mary Ellen O'Neill

The members of Division #4, Mary Ellen O'Neill, held their August 2010 meeting at the Speers Street Grill in Charleroi, PA. They acknowledged the 26 years of their Charter with a Green decorated cake. Congratulations to our Sisters!



For those of you unable to attend the National Convention in Cincinnati this year, I'd like to introduce you to An Lacha, aka The Duck. The Duck participated in many activities while attending the convention, then left for Philadelphia & parts unknown with some of our Sisters from the eastern part of the state. After a successful trip back to Pittsburgh (thanks to Maria Gallagher!!) An Lacha is traveling to Boston, then on to Ennis, Ireland. We will be documenting An Lacha's travels by pictures, so if you have an event and would like The Duck to be a part of it, please let me know. I'll make every attempt to accommodate everyone's requests.



St. Brigid
Our Patroness
Mary of the Gael

Brigid, you were a woman of peace,
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light into the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious,
And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and revere all God has made.
Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Amen.

