

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN  
NEWSLETTER  
C/O MAURY COLLINS  
2847 NASH ROAD  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



**BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC**

IN GOD WE TRUST



**February 1 ~ St, Brigid's Day**

**February 1 ~ Imbolc - the first day of spring.**

**February 3 ~ St. Blaise Day (Blessing of throats)**

**February 14 ~ Valentine's Day**

**February 17 ~ Ash Wednesday**



# HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER



February, 2021

Mother McAuley Division

John P. Kelly Division



## A Message From Robert McMahon, AOH Division President

We note the passing of the feasts St. Brigid's Day and Candlemas as well as the cross-quarterday of Imbolc. All three festivals bring to mind not only the sense of light and brightness during dark winter days, but also continuing the hope that was begun at Christmas. It officially marks the end of the Christmas season of forty days, though this is not practiced much in present times and my outdoor decorations are starting to look a bit eccentric, which is marked by Mary taking Jesus to the temple as was the custom at the time and has carried through in our baptism rituals. Often crosses are woven in straw and the sense of the coming spring in Ireland may be in the air. At our Lucas County Division January Zoom meeting we discussed the upcoming year. Unfortunately, at this time we are still in a wait and see mode.

The Shamrock Dinner is still cancelled as well as the St. Patrick's Day Festival. I am very happy to see the new vaccines rolling out and the light perhaps at the end of the tunnel, however, we decided it is too soon to plan any events as there is no realistic expectation that they could be held. Currently the State Convention in June is on the fence as to hold in person or not. It is possible that by summer's end we may yet be able to see each other in person. Let us pray that everyone stays healthy and safe as that should be. Even though we cannot meet our dues to the National, State, and local expenses continue. Be on the lookout for dues notices and please return as soon as you can. Thank you. We will have our February Meeting by ZOOM 17 February Thursday at 7pm. May God Bless us all.

## Pay Dues

Statements have gone out from both AOH and LAOH Divisions. Please pay your dues. Our National and State obligations continue. Paying your dues will allow us to be in good standing when the covid nightmare is over and we can safely begin activities again. THANK YOU!!!!!!



## A Message from Ann Dollman, LAOH Division President

Greetings!

Happy St. Brigid's Day and Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Springtime is less than 50 days away! Hope everyone is staying safe and warm! I would like to encourage everyone to take the rest of winter to reflect and pray for our country and each other. No matter what your views, let's pray for each other. I would also encourage everyone to dust off their rosaries and pray. I have included a rosary crusade at the end of this missive. Mary Burns passed this on for all of our members to partake in this crusade.

**I would like to do monthly phone meetings starting February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. I will text and email you the call-in number and code to join the call.**

Continued on page 3



## A Message from Ann Dollman, LAOH Division President

The National LAOH is having a "Happy Galentines Day" Zoom event on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm if you would like to join! (see below)

The National LAOH has a newsletter if anyone is interested the email is [laohnational-news@gmail.com](mailto:laohnational-news@gmail.com) to subscribe. It is interesting to see what is going on around Ohio and the Country>

Continued prayers for Mary Ann Buckley's family. Mary Ann was called to our Lord December 17<sup>th</sup>. May her soul rest in the palm of our Lord and join loved ones who went before us. Stay warm and hugs to all!

\*\*A series of seminars entitled **A Farther Shore, American reflections on the advent of Irish Independence 1921-22** is starting at Boston College on Tuesday 26 Jan: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/usa/news-and-events/news-archive/a-farther-shore-american-reflections-on-the-advent-of-irish-independence-1921-22.html>

### St. Brigid's Novena

Brigid, You were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there was conflict. You brought light to 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 to 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



*Join your Sisters from across the country for Tea and  
Chocolate with*

*Karen Keane*

*LAOH National President*

*Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm Eastern*

*If you want to spend some social time with your Hibernian Sisters, please RSVP before*

*2/11 to:*

[laohcountmein@gmail.com](mailto:laohcountmein@gmail.com)



*with the Subject line: Galentines' Day*

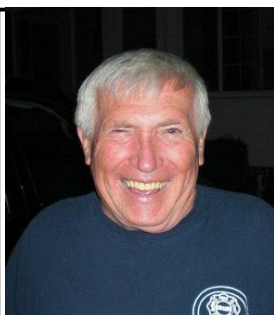
*You will receive the invite before the event*

*Social event, no business questions please!*

**Continued on page 13**

# FEBRURY, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  St. Brigid's	2  happy groundhog day 2 FEBRUARY	3  St. Blaise	4	5	6
7 Echo's of Ireland WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16 <i>Paczka Day</i>	17  Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 Echo's of Ireland WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



## A Message from the Crazy Editor, Maury Collins

Just a thought.... Send a card or a message to Sister Ann McManus. I understand that she is doing well, but she said it is difficult not being able to see anyone of go anywhere. You could cheer up that dear lady!!!!  
Sister Ann McManus 4035 Indian Road Toledo, Ohio 43606

Thanks to Marion King for the suggestion!!!!

# Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday for the year 2021 is celebrated/ observed on Wednesday, February 17th. Ash Wednesday is celebrated on Wednesday seven weeks before Easter and the day after Mardi Gras also referred to as Fat Tuesday. This is a Christian observance which represents the first day of Lent and the starting of approximately 6 weeks of fasting and penance. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter. As the date of Easter is calculated on the cycles of the moon, the date of Ash Wednesday will vary from year to year. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest day is March 10.

The name of the day comes from the custom that churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ash to symbolize death and regret for past sins. The priest will accompany the marking with a recital of Genesis 3:19 - "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The tradition of marking with ashes began in the early church as a way for persistent sinners to outwardly show their desire for repentance. By the end of the 10th century, the custom had spread to all the faithful. Traditionally the ashes are created from burning the palms used in the church on Palm Sunday the previous year. Palm Sunday marked the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem after his 40 days and nights in the desert.

What day is cheat day for Lent?

The Church does not officially promote the concept of 'cheat days' during Lent. However, Lent is traditionally considered 40 days long, even though the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter is actually 46 days. This is because Sundays are not considered part of Lent.

## Important February Dates in Irish History

February 1 In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast day of St. Brigid. It is also celebrated in the Celtic nations as Imbolc - the first day of spring.

February 1, 1994 - The US Government breaks its policy of "censorship by visa denial" and allows Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams to make a speech in New York City

February 2 ~ In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast of Candlemas.

February 2, 1882 - Birth in Dublin of James Joyce

February 2, 1922 - James Joyce's "Ulysses" published in Paris - on his birthday

February 2, 2000 - The founding President of the University of Limerick, Dr Edward Walsh, is praised for his role in the development of the college at the launch of a book "University of Limerick — a Celebration" which charts the history of UL

February 3, 2001 - It is announced that Irish celebrities in show business, sport and the world of writing are among the top earners in England and Ireland. The Irish stars on the rich list include U2, The Corrs, Enya, Ronan Keating, Pierce Brosnan, Eddie Irvine, Roy Keane, Marian Keyes and Maeve Binchy

February 5, 1967 - The Musicians' Union bans the Rolling Stones's Let's Spend The Night Together from Eamonn Andrews' television show

February 5, 2006 - Former Bishop of Galway Eamonn Casey returns to Ireland after 14 years in exile. The cleric fled the country after he admitted to fathering his son, Peter.

February 9, 1923 - Birth in Dublin of playwright Brendan Behan

February 11, 1858 - The Miracle of Lourdes takes place when St Bernadette - Bernadette Soubirous - has her first vision of the Virgin Mary

February 18, 1964 - Death in Blackrock of novelist Maurice Walsh, author of the original story of The Quiet Man

February 20, 1985 - In a highly controversial vote, the Irish government defies the powerful Catholic Church and approves the sale of contraceptives

February 27, 1997 - After a contentious court battle contesting the referendum, the new divorce law in the Republic is enacted

February 28, 2002 - U2 and Enya lead the Irish victory celebrations at the Grammys in Los Angeles. Bono's boys scoop the best rock album title for All That You Can't Leave Behind, best rock performance by a duo or group with vocal for Elevation, and best pop performance by a duo or group for Stuck In A Moment You Can't Get Out Of. Donegal singer/songwriter Enya wins best new age album for A Day Without Rain



## FEBRUARY 1st IMBOLC AND ST. BRIGID'S FEASTDAY



Imbolc has traditionally been celebrated on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The holiday was a festival of the hearth and home, and a celebration of the lengthening days and the early signs of spring. Celebrations often involved hearth fires, special foods, divination or watching for omens, candles or a bonfire if the weather permitted. Fire and purification were an important part of the festival. The lighting of candles and fires represented the return of warmth and the increasing power of the Sun over the coming months. A spring cleaning was also customary.

Holy wells were visited at Imbolc, and at the other Gaelic festivals of Beltane and Lughnasa. Visitors to holy wells would pray for health while walking 'sunwise' around the well. They would then leave offerings; (typically coins). Water from the well was used to bless the home, family members, livestock and fields.

Imbolc is strongly associated with Saint Brigid. Saint Brigid is thought to have been based on Brigid, a Gaelic goddess. The festival, which celebrates the onset of spring, is thought to be linked with Brigid in her role as a fertility goddess. On Imbolc Eve, Brigid was said to visit virtuous households and bless the inhabitants. As Brigid represented the light half of the year and the power that will bring people from the dark season of winter into spring, her presence was very important at this time of year.

Brigid would be symbolically invited into the house and a bed would often be made for her. In the north of Ireland a family member, representing Brigid, would circle the home three times carrying rushes. They would then knock the door three times, asking to be let in. On the third attempt they are welcomed in, the meal is had, and the rushes are then made into a bed or cross. A white wand, usually made of birch, would be set by the bed. It represented the wand that Brigid was said to use to make the vegetation start growing again. Before going to bed, people would leave items of clothing or strips of cloth outside for Brigid to bless. Ashes from the fire would be raked smooth and, in the morning, they would look for some kind of mark on the ashes as a sign that Brigid had visited. The clothes or strips of cloth would be brought inside, and believed to now have powers of healing and protection.

## BRIGID'S CROSS

In Ireland, Brigid's crosses (pictured on the right) were made at Imbolc. A Brigid's cross usually consists of rushes woven into a square or equilateral cross, although three-armed crosses have also been recorded.

They were often hung over doors, windows and stables to welcome Brigid and protect the buildings from fire and lightning. The crosses were generally left there until the next Imbolc. In western Connacht, people would make a Crios Bríde (Bríd's girdle); a great ring of rushes with a cross woven in the middle. Young boys would carry it around the village, inviting people to step through it and so be



# *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*

Paddy says I just got handed a leaflet from a couple of guys, it said be a Jehovah's witness, Mick says what did you tell them? Paddy replied, I didn't even see the accident, so how can I be a witness?

Paddy and Mick are blind drunk and going home from a night out and realize that they don't have enough money for a taxi so they decide to go to the Bus Depot and steal a bus. ... Mick breaks into the depot as Paddy stands as a lookout. ... After a while, Paddy decides to see what is keeping Mick, so he looks through the gate where he sees Mick running from bus to bus looking worried. ... "What the hell are ye doing?" Hissed Paddy. Mick replies, "I can't find a number 6 bus anywhere, Paddy." Holding his hands to his head in disbelief Paddy barks, "You idiot Mick, steal a number 8 and we'll get off at the roundabout and walk the rest of the way."

Paddy says to Mary if you were stranded on a desert island who would you like most to be with you?" "My uncle Mick" replies Mary. "What's so special about him?" asks Paddy. "He's got a boat," says Mary

A few days before Valentine's Day, at the Post Office, Pat saw a middle-aged man spraying perfume on hundreds of bright pink envelopes covered in hearts. Pat asked the man why he was sending all those cards. He replied: "I'm sending out 500 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'" "But why?" asked Pat. "I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replied.

Mrs. Murphy was showing her locket to Father Flanagan. He said: "Mrs. Murphy, I assume that you have a memento of some sort in your locket." "Indeed, I do, Father. It's a lock of my Dan's hair." "But your husband is still alive." "Yes Father, but his hair is all gone."

An actor had been out of work for 15 years because he always forgot his lines. Then one day he got a phone call from a director who wanted him for a big part in a play. All he had to say was "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! After much worry the actor decided to take the role. Opening night arrived, and while he waited in the wings, the actor muttered to himself "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! Hark! I hear the cannon roar! The time for the entrance finally came and as the actor made his appearance, he heard a loud broooooom! He turned around and said, "What the hell was that?"

When Susan's boyfriend proposed marriage to her she said: "I love the simple things in life, but I don't want one of them for my husband".

Young Tony was with his parents and they were taking refreshments in the bar at Manchester station when they heard a whistle. The three of them rushed out of the bar onto the platform only to discover that they had just missed the train. 'The next train is in one hour,' intoned the stationmaster. The three went back into the bar. The parents had another drink, Tony had a coke. Again they heard a whistle, rushed out and discovered the train pulling away. 'Next one is sixty minutes from now,' grunted the stationmaster. An hour later, Tony, with his mum and dad, raced out onto the platform, and his parents leaped onto the train as it pulled away. The boy was left standing on the platform and began to laugh uproariously. 'Your parents just left you,' said the stationmaster. 'Why are you laughing?' Tony smiled, 'They only came to see me off.'

A lady walked in to find her husband standing on the bathroom scale, holding his stomach in. "That won't help" she said. "Yes it will" her husband responded, "that's the only way I can see the numbers."

The graveside service just barely finished, when there was tremendous bolt of lightning and a massive clap of thunder, followed by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the priest and calmly said, 'Well, she's there.'



## Irish Valentine's Traditions

There aren't any specific Valentine's Day traditions in Ireland; most couples celebrate the day in a way that's personal to them, and the common worldwide practices of giving small gifts, enjoying a nice meal or spending quality time together also take place over here. There are however some unique and romantic gestures and places that either can only be done in Ireland or are specifically associated with Ireland, and are sure to sweep your other half off their feet...

### Claddagh Rings:

The most authentic Irish gesture of love that you could possibly do is to exchange Claddagh rings (not that we're biased, of course). These beautiful rings originated in the village of Claddagh in Galway back in the 18th century, where they were originally used by the fishermen of the village as a means of identification. The unique design didn't take long to spread all across the country and soon became a favored gift for couples



or close friends to give one another. The ring's design is a heart held by two hands with a crown on top, and each element has a specific meaning. The heart symbolizes love, the hands friendship, and the crown loyalty. In other words, the most important elements of any successful relationship and the perfect gesture for your Irish Valentine!

The traditional way to wear the Claddagh ring is with the tip of the heart pointing in towards your wrist if your heart has been promised to someone. If it points outwards, you're still on the lookout for your soul mate. The left hand is associated with serious relationships, while the right hand is for close friendships or family ties.

### Howth Head:

Howth is a coastal fishing village at the northern head of Dublin Bay. On a clear day, it offers spectacular views of the entire city as well as the Wicklow Mountains beyond. The busy little harbor with its trawlers and sophisticated yachts is a romantic enough destination in itself, not to mention the array of award winning seafood restaurants, rooftop bars, and other activities on offer (cliff walks or boat trips out to Ireland's Eye, for example) that can make the perfect date night. However, Howth Head (or the Hill of Howth) is the most perfect location to take any literary buff on Valentine's Day. This was the setting for the final scene of James Joyce's masterpiece Ulysses, where Leopold proposes to his love Molly, told to the reader through her famous soliloquy.



### Leap Day Proposals:

Although not specific to Valentine's Day itself, there is a peculiar tradition common in Ireland (and sometimes in the UK) that once every four years on Leap Day (otherwise known as February 29th, the extra day added in every leap year), women propose to their Irish Valentine instead of the other way around. Legend has it that the practice was instigated by either Saint Patrick or Saint Bridget in the 5th century AD. However, there is no historical basis for this and no mention of it before the 18th century. In 1288, there was seemingly a law made by Queen Margaret of Scotland stating that if a man refused a marriage proposal, he was obliged to pay compensation in the form of a pair of leather gloves, a single rose, £1 and a kiss.

# Tír Na nÓg

In Irish mythology Tír na nÓg ([tʲir n̪ə 'n̪og]; Land of the Young) or Tír na hÓige (Land of Youth) is one of the names for the Celtic Otherworld, or perhaps for a part of it. Tír na nÓg is best known from the tale of Oisín and Niamh



Once upon a time, many years ago, there lived a great warrior named Oisín, son of legendary Fionn Mac Cumhaill, or Finn MacCool in its English form. MacCool was the leader of Fianna – a group of great protectors who guarded the High King of Ireland – and each day Oisín and Fianna explored the beautiful green hills of Ireland as they hunted the land.

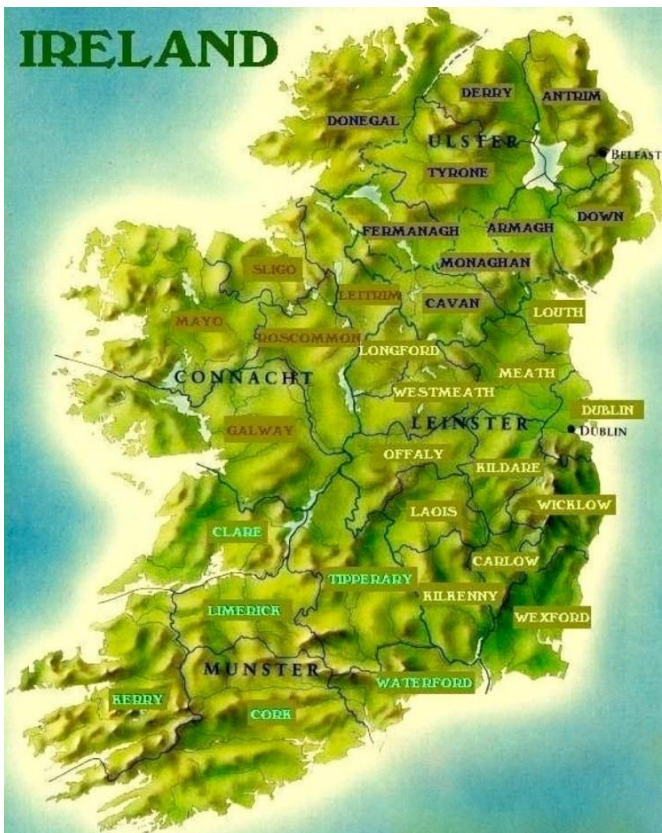
One day, Oisín and Fianna saw a beautiful white horse in distance, and on its back was the most beautiful young woman they had ever seen. Her hair was the color of the sun and fell to her waist, and she wore a dress of palest blue studded with stars. She was surrounded by a golden light.

Oisín immediately fell in love with Niamh, and although he was sad to be leaving his father and Fianna, he agreed to join Niamh on horseback to go and live in Tír Na nÓg, promising Finn MacCool that he would return to Ireland to see him again soon. The fine white horse galloped across silver seas into the magical land of Tír Na nÓg. As Niamh had promised, this was a land where nobody knew of sadness, and where nobody ever aged, everyone there lived forever. Together, Niamh and Oisín spent many happy times together, although there was a small part of Oisín's heart that was lonely. He missed his homeland of Ireland and longed to see his father and Fianna again.

Oisín begged Niamh to let him return to Ireland, but she was reluctant. Although Oisín thought that only a few years had passed, it had in fact been 300 years back in Ireland, since, in the land of Tír Na nÓg, time slowed down. Eventually, Niamh saw how much Oisín missed his family. She agreed to let him return to Ireland to see them again. "Take my magical white horse," she told him. "Do not get off this horse, and do not let your feet touch the ground, or else you will never be able to return to Tír Na nÓg again

Oisín set off across seas on Niamh's white horse and arrived in Ireland. When he got there, he could see that things had changed. The Fianna no longer hunted green hills, and the grand castle that once housed his family was crumbling and covered in ivy. As he was searching for someone familiar in the green hills, Oisín came across some old men, who were having difficulty trying to move a huge rock. He leaned down from his horse to help them, but in doing so he lost his balance and fell from the horse. The moment Oisín touched Irish soil, he immediately aged 300 years that he had missed in Ireland.

An old, frail man, he asked men he had stopped to help about his father Finn MacCool, and they told him that Finn had died many years before. Broken-hearted and many hundred years old, Oisín died soon after, but not before he shared legends and stories of Fianna, his father great Finn MacCool, and the magical land of eternal youth that is Tír Na nÓg. And even today in Ireland, these legends live on.



## HOW AND WHEN THE 32 COUNTIES OF IRELAND FORMED

The division of Ireland into shires or counties is of Anglo-Norman and English origin. The counties generally represent the older native territories and sub-kingdoms.

King John formed twelve counties in 1210. Those parts of Ireland which were under English jurisdiction he parceled out into twelve shires or counties: namely, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Uriel (or Louth), Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. He directed that in all these counties the English laws should be administered. But it must be always borne in mind that these arrangements, including the administration of the law, were for the settlers only, not for the natives, who were then and long afterwards outside the pale of the law. The king returned to England in August 1210, leaving John de Grey lord justice, to whom he committed the task of carrying out his arrangements. During the remainder of his reign, Ireland was comparatively quiet.

King's County and Queen's County were formed in the time of Queen Mary (County Offaly and County Laois). Sir Henry Sidney, about 1565, formed the county Longford from the ancient district of Annaly. He also divided Connacht into six counties: Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim, and Clare (but Clare was subsequently annexed to Munster, to which it had anciently belonged).

Sir John Perrott, about 1584, formed the following seven counties of Ulster: Armagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Coleraine (now county Derry), Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan: the other two Ulster counties, Antrim and Down, had been constituted some time before. In the time of Henry VIII, Meath was divided into two: Meath proper, and Westmeath (c.1543). At first Co Dublin included Wicklow; but in 1605, under Sir Arthur Chichester, Wicklow was formed into a separate county.

This makes the present number thirty-two.

Source | 'A Concise History of Ireland by P. W. Joyce'



# Why the Guinness harp faces the opposite way to the official Irish harp

Andrew Moore-December 17, 2020



With the harp being such a hardworking emblem for Ireland, you might think the powers that be could at least agree on which way round it should appear. Sadly, it's not that simple.

If you pause for a second in between sips of your pint of Guinness, you'll see that the harp on the glass has the straight edge on your left and the curved edge on your right. The strings slope upwards from left to right as you look at it. However, if you then look at your Irish passport, or any official

Irish government document, you'll find the straight edge is on the right and with curved edge on the left. The strings slope slightly from right to left. It didn't happen by chance. It dates back to the 19th century when Guinness decided to start using the harp as an emblem on its iconic drink. It was a predictable choice.

The harp had long been a symbol of Ireland due to the popularity of the instrument in the hands of the numerous Irish harpists who were famed for their skills throughout Europe. Henry the VIII liked the instrument so much he made it the official emblem of Ireland and had it stamped on Irish coins when he declared himself the country's new king in 1541. However, 60 years later his daughter Elizabeth I came to see harpists and harps as symbols of Irish rebellion and ordered their destruction as way of wiping out Irish identity. She ordered her officials "to hang the harpers wherever found and destroy their instruments". This certainly had the effect of making the harpists lie low, but it didn't kill the spirit of the Irish as Elizabeth hoped. Instead, it made the harp even more a symbol of Irishness and Irish resistance. It often featured as a symbol of Irish independence in the various rebellions

In the 1860s, Guinness adopted the O'Neill harp, sometimes referred to as the Brian Boru harp, as the emblem on its Guinness glasses. It proved popular so the company registered it as a trademark in 1862. This created a problem with the government of the new Irish Free State when it wanted to use the harp as the official symbol of Ireland in 1922. Guinness put business before patriotism and wouldn't yield on its trademark, so the government decided to simply show the harp the other way round, and that's how it remains to this day.

In the meantime, the harp has been used more and more as symbol of Ireland, although companies must get permission from the government to use it.

Many travelers across the world will have seen the harp figure on the tailfin of Ryanair planes. The Ryanair version features a female figure flying, a nod to Ériu, a goddess of Ireland.

One final word on Guinness, it deepened its relationship with the harp by using it as the name of its new lager launched back in 1960 with the slogan: Harp...stays sharp to the bottom of the glass.



# Join the Crusade to End Satanism in America!

At Fatima, Our Lady asked us to pray the rosary; this is our weapon against Satan and all his followers.

Whether you commit to one rosary a day, a week or a month—your prayers will be added to those of many other Catholics across the country. As this issue of *Crusade* goes to press, there are 6,454,109 rosaries pledged!

Once you make your pledge to pray a rosary, your heart will be lifted just knowing that you are helping America Needs Fatima get closer to our new goal of 10 MILLION rosaries with each passing day!

Together, with Our Lady of Fatima and Saint Michael, we can drive Satan out of America and make her one nation under God again.



To pledge your rosary, just visit **ANF.org** and click here:

