

AOH Pa. State Chaplain's Report – Feb. 20. 2010

After the meeting in Gettysburg on December 5, I flew back to Ft. Myers until I came back to Pittsburgh for the Christmas Holidays. I returned to Ft. Myers after New Years. Via the telephone I said the opening prayers for the Division One meeting and the Allegheny County meeting. My nephew, Fr. Mike Joyce who is a Capuchin priest joined me for a week; however the week he came was the coldest week on record for Ft. Myers. However, ever the optimist, Father Mikes said that 27 degree in Ft. Myers is always better than 10 degree in Cleveland.

I sent a letter to Bishop Zubik inviting him to celebrate the annual AOH Division 9/Allegheny County St. Patrick's Mass and Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 7. Bishop Zubik who is a member of Division 21 graciously consented to celebrate the Mass and also participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

On January 24 I joined in the AOH National Board Conference Call. One encouraging bit of news on the level is the fact that it appears that there finally has been an agreement between the AOH and the LAOH in matters regarding their respective constitutions. The resolutions will be submitted and hopefully adopted at the AOH National Convention in July. The 175th Anniversary of the founding of the AOH in America will take place next year. It appears that the celebration will take place in New York City sometime in October of 2011. I have been asked to serve on the anniversary committee and it will be my responsibility to contact Archbishop Dolan to seek his help and participation in the various liturgical ceremonies.

I have been working on writing an AOH Chaplain's Handbook. When a new AOH Chaplain is appointed, usually he knows very little about the AOH and even less about being an AOH Chaplain. In the handbook I hope to give a history about the AOH, the duties and responsibilities of an AOH Chaplain and include in the manual the opening and closing prayers for an AOH meeting as well as the wake service for a deceased AOH brother. I hope to have this handbook completed and approved by the AOH National Board prior to the National Convention in July.

With regard to AOH Chaplains I will be submitting an addition for the constitution with regard to who may be an AOH Chaplain. In addition to priests and deacons being eligible to be appointed as AOH Chaplains, I am asking that "professed religious brothers" also be eligible to be appointed as Chaplains. The rationale for this addition is the fact that some religious brothers are already acting in the capacity as Chaplains and professed religious brothers have served as Committee Chairmen on the AOH National Board.