



Mayo Society of New York

P.O. Box 780214

Maspeth, NY 11378-0214

<http://mayosocietyofny.com>

E-mail: mayosocietyofny@gmail.com

Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P & B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

Vol.163

Newsletter

June 2021

Regular Meeting **Cancelled Due to COVID-19**
Where: **St. Sebastian Parish Center**
 39-60 57th Street
 Woodside, NY 11377
Time: **7:30 P.M. Sharp**

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are all well and getting out and about now that weather is changing and the grey skies are behind us. Meeting family and friends again brings smiles to my day, the little blessings after a long 18 months.

I am happy to announce we are having a **Mayo Society Social Gathering on June 16th at 7pm in Donovan's restaurant 58th Street and Roosevelt Ave Queens**. This is not a meeting just an opportunity to get together and share some finger food, tea, coffee sodas and good conversation. (Cash bar is available and strictly optional.) We will be following all CDC guidelines.

We have secured our annual trip to our **Lady of Knock East Durham on August 21st, 2021**. Mass will be at 11am. We will be having a bus going from Woodside and stopping in Woodlawn to pick up passengers. Lunch in The Shamrock House. Price for the bus and lunch is \$85.00 p.p. Full details on bus departure and lunch times will be provided at a later date. Anyone joining us on the trip must contact Betty McLoughlin at 347-613-1303 (or myself) Noreen O'Donoghue at 914-643-1014 so we get a headcount for the bus and The Shamrock House luncheon.

It warms my heart to share news from our home county; Mayo. On March 19th, 2021 on the feast of St. Joseph, Pope Francis elevated Ireland's National Our Lady of Knock Shrine. Knock Co Mayo to International Statue of an Eucharistic and Marian Devotion. Knock was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1979 as part of his apostolic pilgrimage, and in 2018 by Pope Francis as part of the celebrations in Ireland for the IX World Meeting of Families: <https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/pope-francis-elevates-knock-shrine-to-international-status-1099183.html>

Please continue to pray for our sick and deceased members. Our sincere condolences to the family of the late Kathleen Murray, May she Rest In Peace.
Stay safe, continue to follow CDC guidelines.

God Bless.
Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue

The Story of Knock, August 21st, 1879

On a wet dark August evening in 1879, the villagers of this place had spent the day doing the usual work of the harvest time of the year – gathering winter fuel and fodder. As evening approached, the heavy mist that had been persistent throughout the day, turned to a steady downpour. The villagers gathered around the turf fires in their homes, taking comfort and shelter on a terrible night. Suddenly word spread throughout the village that something extraordinary was happening at the Church and so they hurried to the windswept gable where they witnessed a heavenly vision surrounded in a brilliant white light. Men, women and children gathered in prayer at the gable wall of the parish church.

The Vision:

The witnesses clearly saw the Blessed Virgin Mary dressed in white robes, her hands and eyes turned towards heaven in prayer. On her head was a gold crown and where the crown fitted the brow, a single golden rose. On her right, bowed respectfully towards her, was St. Joseph. He appeared older, his beard and hair were grey and, like Our Lady, he was barefoot. To Our Lady's left stood John the Evangelist vested as a bishop, wearing a small mitre. He held an open book in his left hand and in its pages the lines and letters could clearly be seen. He appeared to be preaching but no voice was heard. He stood so that his back was neither turned to the Virgin or to the Lamb that stood upon a simple plain altar. Behind the Lamb was a Cross. The witnesses watched and prayed for over 2 hours and though they were wet, they noticed that no rain fell on upon the Apparition or on the gable.

International Eucharistic & Marian Shrine:

Many have reflected on the rich symbolism of the Apparition. Those who saw it were immediately drawn to Our Lady's presence, a reflection of the deep Marian devotion of all those present. And for many years after it was the presence of Our Lady that people were instinctively drawn to. Devotion to St. Joseph has always emphasized his role as the protector of the Holy Family and he appears at Knock as a secure gentle presence beside his wife, head bowed reverently toward her acknowledging and reminding us of her unique place in the history of the Church. St. John the Evangelist stands between Our Lady and the altar and Lamb. It is his Gospel that refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. He appears to be preaching on the Eucharistic altar, cross and Lamb that is at the very center of the Apparition. Unique to the Apparition is the presence of the Lamb of God upon the altar, a visual presentation of the gift and mystery of the Eucharist. This central element is not to be found in any other recognized Marian Apparition. https://www.knockshrine.ie/about-knock-shrine/?doing_wp_cron=1623195948.9002819061279296875000

BRIAN RUA Ó CEARBHAIN: THE PROPHET OF ERRIS, CO. MAYO

Brian Rua Ó Cearbhain ("Red" Brian Carabine in English) was believed to have been born in Inver, Kilcommon in the barony of Erris in Co. Mayo in or around 1648. He is said to have obtained the gift of prophecy as a reward for a great kindness. When going to pay his rent to his local landlord, a poor woman with young children had nothing but milk from her cow to give the landlord. The landlord asked: "Have you anyone who will go guarantor for you?" As she was a widow, she sadly replied "No, only God. But I swear by Almighty God that I will pay my rent." The landlord replied that he would need someone other than God to guarantee her. Brian was moved by pity to pay her rent, saying he was happy to accept God as a guarantor. The grateful widow thanked him and went home.

When the landlord's wife remarked upon his kindness, he told her God would reward him generously for accepting Him as guarantor. On the way home, he felt weary and made a pillow of his coat and went into a deep sleep. In a dream, he was told he would find a bright stone in the right sleeve of his coat. He was told the jewel would tell him everything that would happen in Ireland until the end of the world.

In 1678, Father Paul Higgins instructed his parishioners not to believe Brian's predictions, nor associate with him, judging him to be mad. Brian's response was to tell them to disregard the word of Fr. Higgins because in four weeks' time he would become a Protestant Minister. When that came to pass as he had said, Brian's predictions were believed.

Another tale says that he purchased cattle from a man named O'Donnell. When the man called for his money, Brian said it would come from the sea. Shortly afterward, a ship was wrecked on the coast with gold on board.

Brian asked his son to send for the priest as he would soon die; but not before seeing the priest. Nobody believed him as he didn't seem ill. The priest's horse lost a shoe on the way, which he didn't realize. The priest also thought Brian was in good health and was annoyed at making the trip for nothing. Brian told him about the horseshoe, and it was retrieved from the appropriate spot. Brian then directed the priest to a certain house to anoint a girl there who would die even before him. This also came to pass. When the priest returned, he was convinced and proclaimed that people should give credence to Brian's prophecies. Brian told him "Now, I am ready for you." The priest anointed him, and he died.

Brian's son is said to have written down his father's prophecies in original Irish script; but also, to have destroyed them after losing his temper with his father, or believing he was indeed mad. They survived through oral tradition, and the craft of the seanchaí (storyteller). In 1906 a renowned scholar named Michael Timoney collected the story of Brian Rua. In 1991, the book "Traditional Cures and Gifted People" by Philomena Cronin featured translations of his prophecies. In longer than three centuries since he lived and died, some of his prophecies are well known to have come true. His prediction:

"Carriages on wheels with smoke and fire will come to Achill, and the first and last carriages will carry dead bodies." This is an accurate description of railroad trains, though no such thing existed in his time. The first train into Achill in 1894 was indeed carrying 32 victims of drowning from a boat accident in Clew Bay; and the last was in 1937 carrying 10 victims of a fire in Kirkintilloch, Scotland.

Another well-known prediction he made:

"A bridge will be made over the Abhainn Mór River at Bellacorick and it will never be finished." In 1820 construction began on what became known as the Musical Bridge, so called because when rocks are rubbed or struck on the limestone; they produce musical tones. Construction continued through The Great Hunger of the 1840's and several workers died in the course of building it. Local legend says that each man who tried to place the last stone met an untimely fate, and each time the stone fell from its place. So, it came to be considered cursed, was left as it was and was never finished. These are more of his famous predictions:

"Paupers will be wearing shoes and children will speak English." This seems to predict the dominance of the English language, and the decline of the Irish language.

"People will be imprisoned without crime or cause, and it is a wise man that leaves the country". This seems to refer to the enforcement of the oppressive Penal Laws, it could apply to several periods in Irish history.

"There will be a year of plenty, followed by a year of grief and other few years and not many will survive." This seems to predict The Great Hunger of the 1840's

"News will travel on the tops of trees faster than a hawk will fly from Dublin to Blacksod Bay". This seems to predict the transmission of telegraph and telephone signals through wires on poles.

"Roads of meal will be made all over Ireland." This is thought to refer to the practice of using Indian corn meal as payment for road construction during The Great Hunger.

"A half-penny candle will burn all the money in the country." This is believed to predict the use of paper money or bank notes, which were unheard of in his time. Some others may appear to be obvious, but like any prediction, can be open to interpretation:

"There will be a road across every bog and the roads will have ribbons of eyes"

"Carriages travelling North and South will have iron wheels and the stones on the roads will be talking."

"The roads will have fences and the crossings will have gates to keep out the trespassers."

"There will be a house on every hill, and a bridge on every stream.

"There is a walking trail around the town of Belmullet, Co. Mayo where the prophecies of Brian Rua Ó Cearbhain are written in the old Irish

Kevin Rooney