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The Taking Of Christ

by Joan Kapp Kreuser

It was in the summer of 1990 that Father Noel Barber, superior of a small community of Jesuit priests from St. Ignatius Residence in Dublin, decided that since the first floor was being renovated, it was time to have a painting expert look at old paintings in the residence with an eye toward cleaning those that needed it. An acquaintance of Father Barber's, Brian Kennedy, the Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, was invited to look at the paintings, and he brought along Sergio Benedetti, a restorer of paintings and frescoes, who did commissions on the side to supplement his small income from the museum.

Benedetti quickly dismissed all but one of the paintings as rubbish, but that one caused such shock at recognition that he turned away, not daring to believe his eyes. The canvas was dark and grimy and Benedetti wondered when he turned back to look more closely at the work: Is it possible that this is the lost original?

The painting, *The Taking of Christ*, features the figure of Judas, his hand on the shoulder of Christ, soldiers, and an onlooker holding a lantern which is a self-portrait of the artist, Michelangelo da Caravaggio, himself. Between 60 to 80 works of Caravaggio are in existence today.

Benedetti explained to Kennedy and Father Barber that this painting was the best of the lot and he asked casually if he could take it back to the museum for cleaning and restoration. What he suspected would take months to prove and he did not want to raise their hopes until proper provenance had been established.

Caravaggio (1571-1610), widely known for his style of Baroque painting and a dramatic use of lighting on his canvases, is considered one of Europe's greatest painters. He was a scrapper, who strolled the streets of Rome with a sword at his side, itching to fight and too often succeeding. After killing a young man in Rome in 1606, he fled to Naples with a price on his head. A few years

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and brawls and journeys later, he was dead at age 38 of what was described simply as fever.

Benedetti brought the painting to the National Gallery where he painstakingly cleaned, restored and studied it, at one point relining it with Irish linen rather than Italian linen with which it was originally lined. This error caused some small cracks to appear in the painting necessitating the relining of the painting with linen ordered from Italy.

Part of proclaiming it a lost Caravaggio would be tracing its history and this was started immediately. What was discovered was that the painting was completed in 1602 for a prominent Italian family and as a consequence its passage through the centuries was amply documented. In 1802, the painting was sold to a Scotsman, and again it was sold at auction in Edinburgh in 1921, at which time its history ended.

When the Jesuits were apprised of what they had in their possession for 70 years, they recalled that the painting had been given to Father Tom Finlay sometime in the 1930s by a woman named Marie Lea-Wilson, who died in 1971 with no heirs.

Having been authenticated as Caravaggio's *The Taking of Christ*, it was decision time for the Jesuits. Whereas their order could surely have used the millions of pounds the picture would fetch, they realized they wanted the picture to remain in Ireland. Their solution: Father Noel Barber with the consent of the Provincial, the head of the Society of Jesus in Ireland, declared that the painting would be placed on indefinite loan to the National Gallery in Dublin.

A condition of the indefinite loan was that any income generated by the sale of reproductions on post cards or as prints or posters would go to the Jesuits. They also asked for and received a full-sized reproduction of the painting to hang on the empty wall space in their parlor on Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

For more information on the search for *The Taking of Christ*, read the book, *The Lost Painting*, by Jonathan Harr. When visiting Ireland, visit the painting at the National Gallery in Dublin.

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**South Central
Shamrock Club News**



2008 Irishman and Irish Rose, Bill Crowley of Baraboo and Kay Scanlon of Reedsburg in the 2009 Reedsburg Butterfest Parade. Due to the flooding in 2008 the parade was cancelled so here they are in the 2009 event.

The summer has been full of graduations, birthdays, Independence Day, strawberry and blueberry picking, family re-unions, weddings and vacations for all of us. September is a month to enjoy Indian summer days, hikes at Devil's Lake and the beginning of school or possibly the empty nest syndrome if your last child is heading off to college.

Summer Birthdays And Anniversaries

June Birthdays: Ruth Judkins 6/14; Charlie Montgomery 6/21; Charlene Terry (2009 Irish Rose) 6/24.

June Anniversaries: Mike and Carole Flint 6/5; Dick and Annette Baker 6/7; Jerry and Ellen Dargel 6/13;

Bill and Pat Wilde 6/16; Jerome and Rita Harms 6/30.

July Birthdays: Bob Howley 7/4; Pat Malone 7/9; Luanne Krohn 7/7; Mick Krohn 7/24; Mike Flint 7/27; Dan Horkan 7/28.

August Birthdays: Hans Helland 8/3; Josie McGowan 8/4; Rita Harms 8/25; Jodi Murray 8/31.

August Anniversaries: Bob and Lori Gavin 8/6; Bob and Pat Hanes 8/10; Mick and Luanne Krohn 8/19.

September Birthdays: Gloria Judge 9/9; Pat Frederickson 9/16.

September Anniversaries: Derek and Lynn Horkan 9/9; Bob and Ruth Judkins 9/14; Tom and Kay Scanlon 9/14.

I am looking forward to hearing about Luanne's August trip to Ireland and catching up on all the members' summer stories.

Happy Fall!

- Dana Horkan-Gant, SCSC Member

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Milwaukee President's Message

Yes, thirty days hath September. I had to say it since it's the only time I use the word hath. With the schools going full throttle this month, and the buses full of students, it seems another year is flying past. At our general membership meeting this month, we will draw the winning raffle ticket for our 50th anniversary fund raiser. Thanks to all of you that were able to participate and help us provide funding for our ambitious plans to celebrate in 2010. If all you were able to do was just cheer us on, that's needed too.

Since most of our members participate in Milwaukee Irish Fest in some way, you may still be recovering your physical and mental health. Four days of hard work and merriment are part of our heritage, and knowing we provide the world's finest Irish festival is a great achievement. My thanks to Linda Tuescher for chairing the retail area for us, this is an important part of the club's funding, and the work is never ending. Thanks especially to all our members who provided staffing at the booth, we couldn't do it without you. I don't have all your names to include as of this day, but know you are greatly appreciated.

Heather Majusiak and Noel Tylla and their band of volunteers made our area in the cultural tent one we can all be proud to view. Brian Witt is the coordinator for the tent and it shone for the Irish again. Mary Culver has uncovered a treasure trove of photos and articles, and we are happy to see this also. Members who assisted in the area are Joe Hughes, Pat Fitzgibbons, Ed Mikush, Marianne Fisher, Veronica Ceszynski, Jane and Dr. Bill Maher, Ken Tehan, Bob Hamill and family, and if your name isn't here, let me know. Take a bow, the Shamrock Club not only builds, staffs, and works, but shows the way for others. Our hurling club volunteers as well as the Celtic soccer team provides us with help whenever called to do so, and thank you.

Cannot say enough as to the shining performances of our very own Color Guard Pipe and Drums. They spent the whole season in several main parades all over the state, and performances where called upon. At Irish Fest, they were second to none. The mass, parades, and a performance at the Crossroads area, added to their great resume. Please thank Rich for all his work, thank Al and Heather for hauling equipment, and thank Bill for his spirit. Drummers, you can't be topped, in the state, others envy our drumline. Top rate pipers that others wish they could only be so lucky. Thank you all for your time representing our club. Color Guard, you are so unique, always looking proud, smiling, waving, and full of welcome anywhere you go.

The Irish football and hurling championships were held in San Francisco this year, and I don't have all the results at this time, my grandson Brian's team had won all their games in the U14 contests. They sure get a workout doing this. The GAA fields were purchased from the government at the old naval base called Treasure Island, and their clubhouse is a former school on the base. Mostly all remodeled with volunteer help, it's a great addition.

No Milwaukee teams were there this year, so perhaps the other teams were spared embarrassment. Be sure to try to attend the Hurler's Ball this month to support them. I know you'll be at the meeting to see the raffle winner, sit in front, so you'll hear your name called.

– Julie Smith, President

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Craic Wisely at ICHC September 12

Celebrate an early Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day with *Craic Wisely* at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Based in Michigan, this six-member Celtic rock band will kick-off the Hallamór concert season in exciting style with vocals, fiddles, guitars, bass and drums along with an untraditional Irish rock instrument, the cello. The band lives up to its name since "Craic" is Gaelic for "good time" and defines the experience of the band's audiences. *Craic Wisely's* original music, along with traditional Irish favorites, is performed with an edge that separates them from other bands.

According to the *Michigan Chronicle*, they are, "An authentic Celtic group with an unbridled energy."

This year's Hallamór series introduces lower prices with individual concerts varying from \$13 to \$18 for advance sales. The four-concert package is \$55. Tickets for the *Craic Wisely* show are \$13 in advance and \$15 the day of the concert. To order the season package as well as individual tickets online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Color Guard News and Notes

Hello Everyone! Irish Fest was a blast. It was long, tiring, and more fun than I could ever expect to have had years ago, when I started piping. I put together the Shamrock Club Cultural tent display that had a “Then and Now” theme to honor the coming of our 50th anniversary and featured Shamrock Club members and all of the groups that share the umbrella of the Shamrock Club. Now we get to do it all again at the Wisconsin Highland Games. Stop by to say hello and see what we’ve been up to the past 50 years! The band will also be performing at the festival at the Waukesha Expo grounds in September. This is always a great time, to play and to see all the talented bands from across the Midwest. Three days of Scottish culture. Ain’t life grand?

Baby news this month comes from Rick Dog Pfeiffer and Jesse McCann announcing they are the parents of a beautiful baby girl, Cameron Grace Pfeiffer. Rick is trying to fit her for drum sticks, but Jess would like her to pipe. Grandpa Rich wants to spoil her.

We are raising funds to go to San Antonio in 2010 for the Fiesta San Antonio Festival. They really like us in that Texas city. We will have more notices for fundraisers as we go along.

Well, I think that covers it for September. Until my friends...

– Noel Tylla, 6th year piper

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Celtic Women First Friday Lectures

Welcome back to the Celtic Women lecture series for another season – our 13th! We hope that you will join us in the coming months for some truly enjoyable sessions; plus we provide a good cup of tea and munchies as well. All for a modest \$7 fee that keeps us in business. The lectures are located at Greene Hall 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Parking on the street is plentiful and the building has wheel-chair access. The public is invited and everyone is welcome.

Sept. 4, 2009

Topic: “Celtic Sports for Celtic Women”

Speakers: Kristen Scheuing and Cory Johnson

The Milwaukee Hurling Club and the Irish Currach Club of

Milwaukee are thriving in our own backyards. These ancient Celtic sports are available for interested persons to learn and participate, and they involve women as major players. Cory and Kristen will describe their sports, the local teams and how we can watch them play or get involved.

Oct. 2, 2009

Topic: “Welsh Love Spoons”

Speaker: Joe Whitmore, Welsh Club of Milwaukee Area

Joe Whitmore has been hand carving Welsh Love Spoons for many years. He has many to display and will demonstrate the techniques in this ancient cultural custom. Spoons have traditionally been given to a loved one as a sign of affection or commitment.

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Old Blind Dogs Return to St. Patrick’s, Loreto Ridge



He’s one phenomenal fiddler – Jonny Hardie is his name – and he’s bringing along three of his friends: a mischievous piper (Ali Hutton), a percussionist with a passion for African instruments (Fraser Stone), and a master of anything with strings (Aaron Jones). Together they’re known as *Old Blind Dogs* and they’re capping off St. Patrick’s annual fall festival with a concert on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

For the past 17 years this band from Scotland has wowed audiences worldwide. Though the line-up has changed over the years – only Jonny Hardie is a founding band member – one constant has remained: superb musicianship, no compromises allowed. The Dogs have twice earned the title Folk Band of the Year at the prestigious Scots Trad Music Awards (2004 and

2007), and the kudos don't stop there. Aaron Jones garnered Instrumentalist of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards (2005); Jonny Hardie tours with *The Chieftains* as their regular guest; Ali Hutton, who has been playing the pipes since he was seven years old, won the National Youth Pipe Band Competition as the pipe major of the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band; and Fraser Stone, a sought after and respected percussion teacher, has developed Trade Afro, a brand of traditional, hand crafted African djembes (more on this later).

So what's in store when this powerhouse of talent returns to Loreto Ridge? Take a clue from their most recent release, *Four on the Floor* (Compass Records, 2007), which was named Best Celtic CD by the Indie Acoustic Project (2007). As one critic observes, a Dogs' CD "bottles the lightning that frequently strikes in concert". (Earle Hitchner, *Irish Echo*, *Wall Street Journal*.) The Dogs last played at St. Patrick's in September 2008. This year, as part of St. Pat's Fall Festival, lightning strikes twice.

Which brings us to the djembe (pronounced "JEM-bay"), a traditional African drum. Percussionist Fraser Stone developed and donated the Trade Afro brand to a community in Senegal where craftsmen build each drum by hand. Trade Afro ensures that the djembes are sold in accordance with fair trade standards. The *Old Blind Dogs* also contribute funding to the Dialaw Music Centre, a music school being built in Senegal. This music school is to serve as a resource for teaching traditional African instruments, music and dance, and provide opportunities for sharing different musical styles and cultures. Dedicated Dog fans know it was a lucky Spring Green area resident who held the winning raffle ticket at the end of the Dogs' September 2008 U.S. tour, taking home the djembe Mr. Stone used throughout that tour. The tour raffle was a fundraiser for the Dialaw Music Centre.

A band of extraordinary musicality. A band whose heart and soul is traditional Celtic with the adventure of African rhythms. A band you don't want to miss? and you won't if you head up to Loreto Ridge on Sunday, September 20 for St. Patrick's Fall Festival. The fun kicks off at 11:30 a.m., featuring a BBQ beef dinner – serving from 11:30-2:30, (the "best meal you ever stood in line for"), with the concert at 3:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church is located in Sauk County at S8280 Hwy. G, where Hwy. G and Hwy. GG intersect (approximately eight miles north of Plain or six miles south of Loganville). Concert ticket prices are \$17 advance and \$20 day of show. Advance concert tickets may be purchased at the following outlets: Plain – Plain Kwik Stop/Shell Gas Station; Reedsburg – DJ Dietz Cabinet Designs & Furniture Restoration; Richland Center – Accents; and Spring Green – Nina's Department & Variety Store. Advance concert tickets may also be purchased with a credit card by calling DJ Dietz Cabinet Designs & Furniture Restoration at (608) 524-4899. Tickets purchased with a credit card incur an additional processing fee (\$1 per ticket).

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State Advisory Group

The next meeting of the State Advisory Group will be in November in Reedsburg, hosted by the South Central chapter. Minutes of the August meeting in Milwaukee will be published soon.

– Pat McCarthy, Secretary

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Milwaukee Hurling Club

The Shamrock Griffins had a magnificent season. We finished in first place in the Jameson Division, with a record of 7-1 through finals. We won our first match in a hard fought contest against County Clare in the semi-finals. The final took place on August 23, so it was too late to tell you if we finally came through with the trophy. It was an All-Green jersey affair, though, with Trinity Three Pubs as our competitor. We finished up the season back at Brown Deer.

In other news, our traveling men's and camogie teams went to Boston for the NACB Championships in early September.

MHC member or not, all are cordially invited to this year's MHC Hurler's Ball. The details: Friday, September 11, 6 p.m. – 12 a.m., at the (new) Crowne Plaza Hotel, 13th and College Ave. (6401 S. 13th St.) Dress: Come as you are comfortable, from tuxes and cocktail dresses to jeans. Having you there is most important. Cost: \$35 includes a delicious buffet dinner, soda, Guinness and Smithwicks, and as if that was not enough, music and dancing with the *Five Card Studs*. There will also be a raffle and silent auction.

Saturday, October 17, will be the 3rd Annual MHC Beer Tasting, at Bub's Pub in Germantown.

Check our website, [www.hurling.net], for more information.

– Dan McAullife

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The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Inc.

50th Anniversary Raffle

Grand Prize:

2 Round Trip Tickets on Midwest Airlines
(*some restrictions apply*)

Other Prizes Include:

2 Tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks Game
(*some restrictions apply*),

\$100 Cash, and Fado Silver Earrings

Drawing: September 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53233

\$2 each, 3 for \$5, 6 for \$10

Lic. No. R0000744A-03519 • Need not be present to win

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Attention All Ye Irish Princes and Princesses!

Are you looking for a fun way to celebrate a child's birthday or a Christmas gift for a family member between the ages 5-16? Then, check this out!

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin-Milwaukee chapter is pleased to announce the opportunity for families with children ages 5-16 years, to march in the Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

You must be a current member of the Shamrock Club to participate in this event. Interested participants can go to the website, [www.shamrockclubwis.com] and download an Irish prince or princess application to join us.

You can snail mail the completed Irish prince/princess application to me at: Vickie Byrne, 15417 West National Ave., #216, New Berlin, WI. 53151. Please do not send it via email.

If you have further questions or want more information, you can contact Vickie Byrne at: [shamrockirishprincess@gmail.com]. Vickie must receive all applications by Saturday, December 5, 2009. This will allow us time to schedule an orientation for the children and their parents in early 2010.

Please help to spread the word to family and friends so we can rock this town on Saturday, March 13, 2010!

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Meetin's Eatins'

I want to start themes for our monthly meeting refreshments. Before I do that I'd like some feedback from Club members as to the importance of this part of the meeting. Is it for social reasons only, or are you really hungry at the end of the meetings? Should we provide hearty fare or lighter end-of-the evening snacks?

I'd like to hear from you, call me at home: (414) 228-8621.

With the above in mind, we will have "Back to School" munchies at our September 3 meeting. I propose the following monthly themes for our Socials:

- October - Apple and pumpkin goodies
- November - Thanksgiving sampler
- December - Christmas Party Meal
- January - Chili competition, Mary McCauley and Veronica Ceszynski and any other members who want to participate
- February - Valentines, Valentines, Valentines
- March - St. Patrick's, of course
- April - Easter and April Showers
- May - Memorial Day remembered
- June - School's Out - summer eats
- July - Fourth of July celebration
- August - Festival Season - foods of all nations

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Upcoming Meetings:

We are planning a whole series of interesting and fun entertainment for the fall and winter meetings. These include a return to Irish Fest, and our annual Christmas Party, with music by the Reilly Trio.

Oct. 1 – Mary Pat Klee was very involved with the Irish community in Texas as a speaker and has agreed to present.

Nov. 5 – Barry Stapleton on the Irish Music Archives at Irish Fest.

Dec. 3 – Reilly Trio performs at the Christmas party.

– Sandy Quinlan, VP

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Parade Essay Contest

The 50th anniversary committee announces a once in a lifetime chance for you and your family. We are sponsoring an essay contest for you to tell us why your family should ride on our 50th anniversary float. This is open to members only, and will be an adjudicated contest. Tell your friends and family to join the club for this opportunity. The essay may be accompanied with the membership fee if they are not enrolled now. The contest commences immediately and the winner will be announced at the January, 2010 meeting. You may enter more than once, and there are no age restrictions on the essays. Deadline is January 2, 2010.

Send your entry to: 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave.; Milwaukee, WI 53233.

The 50th Anniversary committee meets the first Monday of most months at Josh Walton's home. If you have any suggestions, or wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at (414) 443-0446 or [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

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Members' Doings

Brian Nielson is in the middle of a deployment to Afghanistan. He is scheduled to return in January 2010.

Baby news: Jesse McCann and Rick Pfeiffer are the parents of Cameron Grace Pfeiffer. This is grandpa Rich Pfeiffer's second grandchild in as many months.

Erin Canon recently returned from Italy where she danced with the Trinity Irish Dancers in an international competition. Ed and Betty Mikush are celebrating 60 years of marriage in September.

Mary Rose Geitl recently graduated from DSHA High School. She will attend Marquette University in the fall.

Ed and Cathy Ward recently took an Alaskan cruise with their family. Pat and Jane Fitzgibbons and Tom and Colleen Kennedy were host families for two of the Festival Experience people who worked at Irish Fest.

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Sunshine Club

Roger Walsh recently had hip replacement surgery. Maricollete Walsh had knee surgery. Pam Canon had surgery on her wrist. We wish all a speedy recovery.

Berneice O'Donohue died recently. Also, Fergal Gallagher passed away. Our prayers to their families.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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