

HOLYOKE

Donahue scholarships awarded by Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians James A. Curran Division One and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden and Hampshire counties selected three area students to receive the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship for 2021.

The honored students are Ethan Dupont, of Holyoke; Catherine Morrissey, of Westfield; and Aidan Sullivan, also of Holyoke.

"These are three bright hardworking students who are extremely proud of their Irish heritage. They genuinely represent the values of scholarship and community service advanced by Maurice A. Donahue, for whom the scholarship is named. They are truly deserving of these awards," said Paul O. Mengel, chairman of the scholarship committee.

Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mary and Joseph O'Connor, of Holyoke, and the scholarship committee raised funds with a takeout version of their traditional corned beef and cabbage night dinner fundraiser. The "Irish Night A Go Go" meal was prepared by the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House.

Dupont, the son of Mark and Cheryl Dupont, graduated from Holyoke High School and will attend Massachusetts College of Arts and Design in Boston where he plans to study communication design. He was nominated for the scholarship by his mother, who is a member of the ladies' ancient order. He worked for several years at The Wherehouse? on the Hibernian Irish Night alongside order president Paul Hogan and friend Charlie Popp and expressed a sadness at their recent passing.

Morrissey, the daughter of

John and Mary Morrissey, graduated from Westfield High School and will attend Fairfield University. She was nominated by her grandfather George Cauley. She echoed the words of the late Mayor Martin Dunn about Donahue: "He dedicated his life to helping other people and making his community a better place to live." She plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Sullivan, the son of Michael and Wendy Sullivan, graduated from Holyoke High School and will attend American International College. A volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, he was nominated by his mother, also a member of the ladies' order.

In Western Massachusetts, the Hibernians helped Irish immigrants assimilate in America with the order founded in Holyoke in 1880 and the ladies organization founded in 1897.

As a national organization with divisions in 42 states, the Hibernians were founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. Today, the club's mission is to: promote friendship, unity and Christian charity amongst its members; encourage civic mindedness; promote loyalty to country and community; promote Irish culture, and are a voice for Ireland.

The Donahue scholarship is for a child or grandchild of a current Hibernians member in good standing.

Besides the scholarship, the Hibernians serve and prepare meals at Kate's Kitchen every six weeks, create floats for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade and assist with the road race. For more information, visit the website, aoh-holyoke.com, or contact current president Patrick Hogan by email to phogan413@gmail.com or the ladies' order president Paula Paoli by email to paula5412@comcast.net.