

St. Brigid's Influence on Irish American Women

On this St. Brigid's Day, let us remember all the Irish American Women who followed the example of St. Brigid of displaying hospitality, compassion, courage, peace and justice.

In this year where the United States will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary, we need to look back on the many contributions of Irish American Women. Irish American women's faith and leadership have had a role in shaping American life. They brought to America the legacy of St. Brigid.

Arriving in America, they sought dignity, opportunity and freedom. They faced many hardships in this new land and faced the challenges. They displayed courage like St. Brigid becoming the builders of new communities. They started families living in the neighborhoods where the parish church was the center. Many entered the religious life where they served in parish schools educating the young Immigrants and their children. They also served the poor and sick. Many of the Irish American Religious Sisters were involved in the establishment Hospitals. We can thank these women for strengthening American society through education, healthcare, and social service long before our current systems were established.

Like St Brigid, Irish American women were also women of action and justice. They organized for workers' rights, immigrant protections, civil rights, and disability rights. From the labor movement lead by Mother Jones to social reform by Dorothy Day to the Special Olympics of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, they brought actions of faith to public awareness. Irish American women were aware that our freedom came with responsibility and compassion for others

We the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians continue this legacy. We honor our past, serve the needs of the present and look to the future. As we commemorate America 250, let us continue to advocate for Catholic Justice issues and continue the many acts of charity in our local communities. We have made an impact on America since 1894 and look towards our impact on the future of America.

St Brigid's flame is a symbol of hope, generosity, and renewal. That flame has burnt in the hearts of the Irish American women that helped to build this nation. The flame continues to shine on the Irish American Women of today in shaping our e the future. In celebrating America's 250 years, we honor not only a republic, but the women whose faith and courage made its promise real.