

57th Annual Parade

March 30 , 2008



2008 Parade President
Brian F. Moriarty

As throngs of people basked in a weekend of warmth and sunshine, "parade weekend" was a busy time for our committee, and spectators. The annual St. Patrick's Road Race set a record with over 3,000 runners, and our crowd on parade day was estimated to have exceeded 300,000 people. Holyoke's March homecoming was alive and well on March 29th and 30th.

For "Fighting Irish" enthusiasts, you certainly got to hear various renditions, by multiple bands, of the Notre Dame Fight Song, as participating musical units from throughout the country celebrated, with Holyoke, the 100th anniversary of the famous fight song being written and performed by Holyoke's own Shea Brothers. No performance of this song was more poignant than that of the Umass Marching Band, which got ALL of us in the parade spirit by leading over 40 bands, 40 floats and 10,000 marchers through the streets of Holyoke.

My family and I were so fortunate to have been surrounded by the more than 250 men and women making up our committee, from numerous communities, who make "parade weekend" and all of our events such a success. And to each and every one of, we thank you!

Judge Ann M. Gibbons, our 2008 Grand Marshal and her family led all of the marchers along the parade route. Judge Gibbons was followed by our beautiful Grand Colleen Ashley Reidy, and colleens Katelyn Whalen, Julia Page, Ashleigh Kelliher and Lauren Noonan.

Traveling form New York was our 2008 JFK Award Winner, Holyoke's own Fran Healy and his family, and, our 2008 Ambassador Award Winners Charlotte Moore and Ciaran O'Reilly, of the Irish Repertory Theatre.

Holyoke cheers were loud and strong for our local award winners. The Holyoke Police Department, Auxiliary Police Department and Fire Department were together named as our 2009 Citizenship Award Winner, a very well deserved honor for all they do for not only the parade committee, but also the citizens of Holyoke on a daily basis.

Barry Farrell, our 2008 Rohan Award winner- Steve McGirr, our 2008 O'Connell Award winner- and Joyce Chretien, our 2008 Gallivan Award winner, all marched proudly with their families on this glorious day celebrating Irish Heritage.

Once again, a sincere thank you to everyone for such a memorable year, one I will never forget!



2008 Grand Marshal
Judge Ann M. Gibbons



2008 Rohan Award
Barry J. Farrell



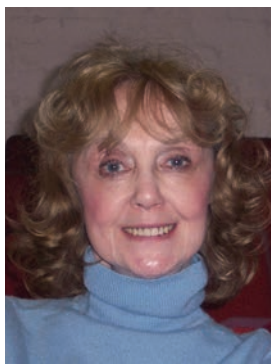
2008 O'Connell Award
Stephen J. McGirr



2008 Gallivan Award
Joyce Chretien



2008 John F. Kennedy Award
Francis Xavier Healy



2008 Ambassador's Award
Charlotte Moore &
Ciarán O'Reilly



2008 Citizenship Award
Holyoke Police, Auxiliary Police &
Fire Departments.



2008 Grand Colleen
Ashley M. Reidy