



Taoiseach Crowley Clan  
Comte Michael-Patrick O'Crowley  
MSV, MDN, C.C, C.D.

Ballinderry Castle,  
January 12th , 2016,

Dear clansmen and dear ladies,

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you, your family and dear ones, for this 2016 year. As you may all know 2016 is a special year for us as a clan since we will be having our clan gathering in September 2016 in Bantry. But also it is the year of the anniversary of the Dublin Easter rising and the forming of the provisional government of the Republic of Ireland. This event and subsequent actions lead to the forming of the existing independent Republic of Ireland.

While we may celebrate the sequence of events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the sacrifices of many Irish heroes which resulted into the Republic of Ireland, we should not forget that our world is changing. For the first time in a thousand year it is envisaged that the texture and composition of the Irish society and its family name geographical distribution will change. Indeed up to a few years ago the family name distribution in Ireland aside from major cities was evaluated to be the same as in the 1300. This will no longer be the case.

In this context more than ever our clan is a home of traditions and historical continuance celebrating our Gaelic heritage. This heritage must be maintained, enriched in many aspects. Every year our knowledge is enhanced by academic studies addressing and understanding the huge corpus of Gaelic manuscripts, poems, histories and legal documents. Our clan benefits from developed relationships with renowned academics ready to helping enrich our knowledge of the Crowley Clan which was in Gaelic times styled as a "noble community". It is the results of these efforts that we were able to propose a very comprehensive program for the next clan gathering with visits of sites directly connected to clan for more than 700 years.

The year 2015 was a year full of sad events, with the confirmed prospect of more challenges in 2016. But the 2015 year for the clan ended on a joyful note with the marriage of Liam Crowley from Bandon with Pauline. The wedding was particularly moving, we had 3 former Taoiseach of the clan attending, and a few were in our traditional dress under the sound of a lead piper. As expected our head musician Larry entertained the whole ceremony. Pictures are posted on Facebook. We wish Liam and Pauline the very best life full of joy and happiness. They are a model of kindness and generosity.

We hope to see you in Bantry to share this unique moment of the clan gathering. We also hope that the Crowley clan be a second home to you, where you can find a unique sense of belonging to a wider blood related community, keeping our proud heritage, always ready to share it and welcome all from overseas.

Mise le Meas,

Michael