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Brian O'Dwyer, award winner Edward Grebow, and Ben Briscoe at Monday's Briscoe Awards.
PHOTO BY JAMES HIGGINS, HIGGINSPHOTONYC.COM

Briscoes mark 20

By Ray O'Hanlon
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The Briscoe Awards, which commemorate Dublin's first Jewish Lord Mayor, Robert Briscoe, and also serve to forge stronger ties between New York's Irish American and Jewish communities, marked a twentieth anniversary Monday evening with the 2013 award presentations at the 21 Club in midtown Manhattan.

The event is sponsored by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and hosted by EIIC's chairman, attorney Brian O'Dwyer.

This year's award winners were Robert Astrowsky, assistant secretary of the United Federation of Teachers, and Edward Grebow, president and chief executive officer of Amalgamated Bank.

The packed gathering heard renewals of the ties between Jewish and Irish New Yorkers, forged over many years and by succeeding generations of immigrants.

Those attending also heard pleas for comprehensive immigration reform, support for the state of Israel, and praise for the work of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. In his remarks, Brian O'Dwyer delivered a stinging rebuttal to calls for a boycott of Israel that have recently been made in Ireland.

The evening included invocations from Monsignor James Kelly and Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, acceptance speeches from the award winners, and also an address by former Fianna Fáil TD Ben Briscoe, who, like his father, served at one time as Dublin's Lord Mayor.

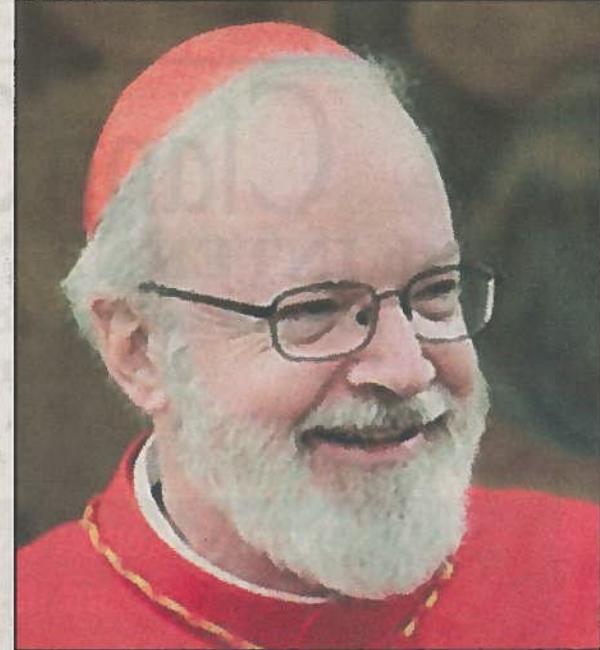
The first Briscoe Awards were held in 1994. At that time, and up to 2000, there were three winners each year. Since then, there have been two.

Belt of Crozier

Cardinal O'Malley to boycott Kenny and BC speech



Taoiseach Enda Kenny. PHOTOCALL



Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

By Jim Smith
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BOSTON — The head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, says that he will not attend May 20 graduation ceremonies at Boston College because Taoiseach Enda Kenny will be delivering the commencement address and receiving an honorary degree.

"I am sure that the invitation (to Kenny) was made in good faith, long before it came to the attention of the leadership of Boston College that Mr. Kenny is aggressively promoting abortion legislation," O'Malley said in a press statement.

"Since the university has not withdrawn the invitation and because the Taoiseach has not seen fit to decline, I shall not attend the graduation." O'Malley, who was scheduled to deliver a blessing to the graduates at the Jesuit college, alluded in his statement to

the 2004 request of the U.S. Catholic Bishops that Catholic institutions "should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors, or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

BC spokesman Jack Dunn said in a press release that the college respects O'Malley and regrets that he will not attend. He said BC's decision to honor Kenny was based in part on the "historically close relationship Boston College has enjoyed with Ireland."

Dunn also denied that there was any rift between the college and the church.

"As a Catholic institution, Boston College supports the Church's commitment to the life of the unborn."

At the crux of the conflict is Kenny's support of pending legislation in Ireland which the bishops there have described as "a dramatic and morally unacceptable change to Irish law."

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Gaelic Athletic Assoc. of Greater New York



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www.newyork.gaa.ie
Liam Birmingham, Chairman



Wednesday, May 15 • 7:45pm
Mna Na Fianna v Kerry/Donegal
Thursday, May 16 • 6:30pm
IF ko • Mayo v Rangers
7:45pm • IF ko
Monaghan v Celtics
Sunday, May 19 • 1:00pm
IF ko • LI Gaels v Rockland

Sunday, May 19 • 2:30pm
IF ko • Kerry v Rangers
4:00pm • SF ko • Cavan v Kerry
5:30pm • SF ko
Donegal v Cork
Tuesday, May 21 • 6:45pm
B Ch • Rockland v Manhattan
7:45pm • A Ch
Raymonds v Brooklyn