

President's Message

Happy New Year 2014 !

By the time this is read by all, Christmas and New Years Day, 2013 will have passed. I hope each of you had a Wonderful Holiday Season. Hopefully, everyone had the opportunity to share the Joy of the Christmas experience with your family and friends. Too often, some forget the real meaning of Christmas. The Birth of our Christ should always be in our hearts during this special time of the year.

My first Newsletter as your new Msgr. Kelly Division President and what an Honor it is. The shoes I have to fill in following Mike McGee and Frank King into this position will not be easy and I will do everything I can to not let you down. I feel we have installed a very strong Officer slate for the upcoming year and look forward to working with them. We all thank you in advance for your support and prayers as we fulfill our Officer roles in the upcoming year.

Our fairly new Division will boast 38 members this new year. We welcome all new members and look forward to them being a part of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. As we consider all of our responsibilities as Hibernians, we should not forget that one of our priorities is to grow our membership numbers. Our obligations of supporting our Church and living our Catholic Faith on a day to day basis is only the beginning. We should strive in our obligation to preserve our Irish Catholic Heritage and our Irish Culture. The Msgr Kelly Division supports multiple Parishes in our area. For these reasons, we would want the year 2014 to be another banner year in recruitment. We now have members from 5 Parishes and we need more members to follow through with our planned support for all.

Communicating between our members and those in our communities is one of our most important considerations as an organization. Dan Harrington, our webmaster and Treasurer, has put together an excellent website for us. Our website is not only a tool that can be utilized by us in communicating with each other, but, allows those elsewhere to see and understand what we as Msgr. Kelly Hibernians are all about. All of us should visit often the www.aohkelly.org website. You can read about our Divisional Namesake, Msgr. Charles a. Kelly, Jr. You will find our Prayer Lists, upcoming and past events, a lot of divisional event pictures, current and past newsletters, the AOH History and so much more. Dan is constantly working to upgrade this website for our benefit, please visit often and enjoy it.

We want to continue the Irish Heritage and History lessons that some have offered during our regular meetings. They are extremely interesting and enjoyed by all. If you would like to participate in these presentations please let me know in advance and I will put you on the agenda. I would like to make it a regular part of our meeting. I can adjust the business portion of the meeting to about 45 minutes and the we could have a 15 minute presentation before adjournment. I would appreciate your input.

Our Christmas Party was a success!

What a wonderful time had by all at O'Toole's for our Christmas Party. Good Friends, Food, Drink and Conversation! It just doesn't get any better! Thanks to all who were able to make it the absolute success it was. You know, we might be out growing O'Toole's. Boy, I hope not. The hospitality and food was second to none! What a wonderful group of people we have in our Division, I can't think of a time I've ever enjoyed more!

Trip to Ireland Raffle Ticket Sales:

The raffle tickets sales are in full swing for the Kelly Division. We need to sell as many tickets as we can before St. Patrick's Day. The Kelly Division gets \$5 for each ticket we sell. We begin sales each year at the Celtic Festival in the fall and then begin anew starting in January and sell through St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. If you have not yet picked up your tickets to sell, please do so soon. Remember, the sales dollars of the raffle is the majority of our revenue for the year. It represented over \$1500.00 dollars to our treasury last year. It would be Great to better that amount this year. When we are successful, there is a lot less to do in the summer.

January Schedule:

We will be at St. Edward, after each Mass on Jan 4th and 5th in the Community Room selling Trip to Ireland Raffle Tickets. The coverage schedule has been sent out. Thanks to those that has offered to help.

We will be at St. John Neumann after each Mass on Jan 11th and 12th, in the Narthex selling tickets . We will have a coverage schedule request to you shortly. Please sign up to assist if you can.

Our next regular meeting will be on January 9th, 7 pm at St Joseph, Buford Rd

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There is a Qtrly State and Divisional Officers meeting in Fairfax, Va on Jan 25th. A review of that meeting will be covered at our Feb 13th Regular meeting.

We will be scheduling a Financial Audit, as we do each year, as required in January. Further information to follow.

Upcoming Events:

St. Patrick's Day will be here before you know it. March 17th is not that far away. We need to start planning our Festivities at Church Hill now. Bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Always, **Pray the Rosary** and Pray for our Clergy. Lets pray for each other and our families. Pray for our veterans and their families, as they have given so much of themselves for our Great Country.