

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019 EDITION VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

MSGR. CHARLES A. KELLY, JR. DIV. 44PO 01



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JACK SIMILA



Jack Simila
Division President

Greetings Brothers!

As we enter the Holiday season, I want to wish each of you and your families a most Joyous and Happy Christmas. Christmas is the perfect time to reflect on the essential things in life, such as our families and friends. Many times we ask ourselves what the true meaning of Christmas Spirit is. *Bishop Michael G. Duca* wrote in the Catholic Connection, "The real joy of Christmas is not about finding the Christmas spirit, but about being the source of that Spirit for others." The answer is not always easy, but maybe the answer is in all of us and how we act towards our

family, friends, and neighbors.

We had a significant event in November. Our annual history presentation was held at the La Prade Library in Chesterfield on November 20th. Our speaker was Dr. Countryman Ph.D., an emeritus



professor from Berry College. Dr. Countryman's presentation on the Immrama was exciting



and enjoyed by over 22 attendees. Much thanks to Broth-

Business Meetings

NEXT Business Meeting at St. Joseph Church on January 9th, 2020 at 7 PM.

Regular Monthly Business Meetings are held at 7 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month. No meetings are held during July and August.

Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Official Apparel

All items brought to you by the AOH's official partner, Keltex Imprinted Apparel

Keltex is happy to announce our partnership with the AOH National Board to provide quality merchandise to members throughout the country.

Celebrate Your Brotherhood!
We offer custom quantity discounts for your division!

Contact [Keltex](#) or call:

(609)624-3252



Ulster-Scots Park, Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Home of early Ulster-Scots settlers to America.



(Continued from page 1)

ers Matt Dullaghan for organizing the event and to Dan Harrington for the excellent photography work.

We also celebrated our annual Christmas Dinner at O'Toole's Pub, on December 8, 2019. The night started with a cocktail hour and a lot of great discussions and finished with another great meal served by the fabulous staff at O'Toole's. We had about 20 members in attendance. ([See our photos on page 3.](#))

Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2020. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as we start our new year of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Before I sign off for the year, I not only want to wish you all a Merry Christmas but also a happy and prosperous New Year.

Irish Mythology and Christmas

The roots of the Irish Christmas traditions that we recognize today can be traced back to pre-Christian celebrations of the Winter solstice. The solstice is the twice yearly event when the sun appears

to be at its highest or lowest point above the horizon. In the northern hemisphere the Winter solstice usually occurs annually between December 20 and December 23.

The Winter solstice was seen by the ancient Celts as one of the most significant times of the year. The Neolithic monuments of Newgrange in Eire, Maes Howe in Orkney, Scotland and Bryn Celli Ddu in Ynys Môn, Wales are examples of burial chambers scattered throughout the Celtic nations constructed to capture the full impact of sun's rays during the solstices.

Druids, the priestly class in ancient Celtic society, celebrated the festival of Alban Arthuan (also known as Yule) at the time of the Winter solstice. It was on this day that they ceremonially gathered mistletoe from oak trees. A practice described in the writings of Roman historian Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus AD 23 – August 25, AD 79).

The name Christmas is from the Mass of Christ (Christ-Mass). The actual date of the birth of Jesus is not given in the Bible. The spread of Christianity during the first millennium (January 1st AD to December 1000 AD of the Julian calendar) was aided by the new religion adapting to the ceremonies and traditions of the existing religions. At

times the early Christians also adopted existing deities to ease the transition from old beliefs to new ones, as is thought to be the case with Brigid the Celtic fertility goddess who became known to Christians as Saint Brigid. So when celebrating Christmas the traditional trappings that go with this festive season have roots that go far back into Celtic history. The Mistletoe gathered by the Druids for its magical and health giving properties. The Yule log burnt by the Celts to counter the darkness of mid-Winter when they thought the sun stood still for twelve days and to bring good luck. The Holly and Ivy; evergreens that Celts saw as important to keep evil spirits at bay. The Tree decorated with symbols of solar objects and gifts to Celtic gods and goddesses.

Gaelic Greetings for Christmas

Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa (Manx Gaelic)
 Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath ùr (Scottish Gaelic)
 Nollaig Shona Dhuit agus Bliain Nua Fe Mhaise (Irish Gaelic)
 Nedeleg Laouen na Bloavezh Mat (Breton)
 Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda (Welsh)

Nollaig Shona 2019



*Christmas Party at O'Toole's
December 2019*



Prayer List

-**Mike Dougherty** and also his wife, Diana, who is being treated for spinal stenosis; Mike's brother-in-law James Cramsie with incurable leg infection

-**Mike's** sister, Maryellen, suffering from multiple strokes

-**Chuck Mulherin's** wife, Vera, diagnosed with cancer

-**Jim Calpin**, Neuropathy Pain and irregular heart beat

In Memorium

-**Mike Norton's** sister, Mary Bracken

-**Mike Norton's** niece, Debbi Rossi

-**Brother Paul Kiniry**, Msgr. Kelly Division

-**Brother Bob O'Connor** Msgr. Kelly Division

God grant them eternal rest

CLOSING THOUGHT/PRAYER



Hail glorious Saint Patrick,
we honor thy name

Tho' Erin may claim thee,
the world knows thy fame

The faith of our fathers is our
treasure too

How holy that faith that they
learned from you

Through crosses and trials its
fires burn bright

It shows us the way, the truth

and the light

Great Saint intercede, that
we always may be

Devoted and loyal true chil-
dren of our heavenly father

And the Blessed Mother and
thee

Our faith and devotion be
ever like thine

Our thoughts be of Jesus,
Our hearts, minds and souls

be his shrine

And when to the end of life's
path we have trod

Be near and intercede for us
great bishop of God

MSGR. CHARLES A. KELLY
AOH DIV. 44PO 01
POWHATAN, VA

2019 Division Officers

President-Jack Simila
jacksimila@gmail.com

Vice President-Frank King
skyyking@comcast.net

Treasurer-John Frampton
firemedic45@comcast.net

Recording Secretary-James Calpin
jcalpin@verizon.net

Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly
jlkelly1@verizon.net

Standing/Compassion Comm.-Mike Dougherty
dianadougherty46@yahoo.com

Marshal-Sonny Dorish
fmdorish@yahoo.com

Sentinel-Jim Dunn
jimdunn367@gmail.com

Webmaster-Dan Harrington
joydan1073@verizon.net

PAGE 5

DECEMBER 2019 EDITION VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

The Msgr. Charles Kelly, Jr. Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in December, 2009 and conducted it's first meeting on January 21, 2010 at St. John Neumann Church, Powhatan, Virginia. The next few meetings were taken up with election of officers and the many procedural items needed to get our group started.

Since that time we continue to grow, adding new members and supporting and donating to Catholic schools and Churches in the area, in line with our commitment to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

For Further Information:

[Contact Editor](#)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.AOHKELLY.ORG



THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Take into consideration all those on our prayer list as well as those among the faithful departed. We are supporting the Knights of Columbus at St. John Neumann parish with their rosary tabulation (one million rosaries is the K of C goal). As our past state president used to encour-

age us, "Pray the Rosary." We have a LOT to pray for and pray about. In addition to those mentioned above we have **a lot at stake in this upcoming election in November**. I hope the US Constitution and the part about religious freedom still applies.



Links

[AOH National](#)

[Irish Museum-DC](#)

Ancient Order of Hibernians

[AOH Virginia](#)

[The Wild Geese](#)

Msgr Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division

[AOH Kelly](#)

[Irish Times](#)

2480 Batterson Road

[AOH Dooley](#)

[Irish Echo](#)

Powhatan, VA 23139

[Irish Culture and Customs](#)

[Sew Fabulous Embroidery](#)

[Home](#)