



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



# Kelly Division Newsletter

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

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VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# JACK SIMILA



**Jack Simila**  
**2020 Division President**

Brothers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well.

The coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty and stress for many of us. I hope that you all are taking the necessary measures to protect yourselves and your family and friends and don't forget, the actions we seek to protect ourselves also go a long way to protect those around us. As you know and have most likely heard dozens of times, social distancing is the most useful thing we can do to slow the spread of the coronavirus. This sacrifice means disturbing our daily life, whether we have

to work from home or give up going to our favorite restaurants or put off meeting with our family and friends in person for a while. I guess we get to live a more straightforward and quiet life until we can get through this.

As you probably have already guessed, our April meeting is cancelled. The May meeting is still on the table, and hopefully, by the second Thursday in May, maybe things will be back to normal enough that we can hold a meeting. We will keep everyone informed of any updates by email.

We are living in peculiar times right now. The coronavirus pandemic should not be taken lightly. Please do everything you can to be safe. The hardest thing for all of us is not able to visit our families, especially our children and grandchildren. Stay home; there will be plenty of time for getting together with family and friends when this over and don't forget, we have Facetime, Facebook, Skype, Zoom and other forms of social media in which we can see and talk to our loved ones. If you are not sure how to use these forms of social media and you are interested, please reach out to one of our brothers or me, and we will be glad to help you out.

## Business Meetings

NEXT Business Meeting at St. Joseph Church on March 12th, 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

**Dues Notice**  
2020 Dues are due starting this month. Dues remain at \$40 and if 75 or older, dues are \$20. Please pay at Division Meetings or mail check payable to:  
**AOH Msgr. Kelly Division**

to:  
**Larry Kelly**  
120 Carriage Point Ln.  
Glen Allen Va. 23059

I am planning to have a Zoom meeting on Thursday night with anyone in the Kelly Division that is interested. I'll send a separate email with the link.

Please be safe,

IOM,

Jack Simila

### A Bit of Irish History

The Claddagh Ring is one of those well-known emblems of Ireland that most people recognize, but how many know the stories behind it? Many's the young man has gifted one to his lady, giving his heart along with it, as did the ring's original maker.

Back in the seventeenth century there was a young Irish lad by the name of Richard Joyce, who lived in the Claddagh, then a small fishing village near to the city of Galway. He wished to seek his fortune abroad the better to provide for his love, so he took to sea, setting sail for the West Indies where it was said great wealth was to be had. Well some people find their fortunes, and some peoples' fortunes find them! And so it was for Richard - as he travelled his ship was set upon by fierce and swarthy Barbary Pirates, cutlasses clenched in gold-studded teeth, Atlantic winds swelling sails given to them by the Dutch corsair Zymen Danesker, with-

out which they'd never have been able to reach so far. Richard's ship and crew were caught unawares, and he himself was almost killed, but instead he was captured and sold into a life of slavery. From the Arab slave blocks his new master bought him and for fourteen years he learned the trade of the goldsmith.

When King William III sent an ambassador to Algeria to demand the release of any and all British subjects who were enslaved in that country, which at the time would have included Richard Joyce, his master begged him to stay, captivated by his Irish charm, and offered him half his lands and his only daughter's hand in marriage to boot!

But Richard would have none of it and returned after his adventures to his love, who waited for him yet. There he crafted the first of the Claddagh rings, and as his story spread so did the symbol of his love and fidelity. The meaning of the ring depends on who you ask, two hands and a crowned heart mean friendship, loyalty and love to some, the ancient Celtic gods Dagda, Beathauile and Anu to others, while yet others will tell you that it's a representation of the Holy Trinity, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Some even claim Richard drew his inspiration from Roman friendship rings, and who knows but that he might have.

The men of the Claddagh, fisherfolk for the most part, would emblazon the ring on their sails

and chase away any fishing boats that didn't bear their crest. The traditions of the Claddagh Ring spread further abroad during the 19th century, passed down mother to daughter or grandmother to granddaughter among those fleeing during the great hunger. It was the only ring made in Ireland worn by Queen Victoria and later by Queen Alexandra and King Edward VII.



The manner in which you wear the ring also tells its own story, a handy guide for the amorous!

- On the right hand with the point of the heart toward the fingertips: the wearer is single and may be looking for love.
  - On the right hand with the point of the heart toward the wrist: the wearer is in a relationship.
  - On the left hand with the point of the heart toward the fingertips: the wearer is engaged.
- On the left hand with the point of the heart toward the wrist: the wearer is married.

### 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.

-**Frank King**-Recovering from colon surgery; still in hospital

**Mike McGee**-Being treated for shingles

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

-**Dan Harrington**-Bad knees and lukemia

All those who have health problems

### In Memorium

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

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

-**Robert O'Connor**

-**Paul Kiniry**

God grant them eternal rest



### CLOSING 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

### 2020 Division Officers

President-*Jack Simila*  
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Treasurer-*Jim Calpin*  
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Recording Secretary-*Mike Norton*  
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Financial Secretary-*Larry Kelly*  
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Sentinel-*Jim Dunn*  
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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](http://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](#)

[National Hibernian Digest](#)

Msgr Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division

[AOH Kelly](#)

[Irish Times](#)

2480 Batterson Road

[AOH Dooley](#)

[Irish Echo](#)

Powhatan, VA 23139

[Irish Culture and Customs](#)

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