



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



# Kelly Division Newsletter

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# JACK SIMILA



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

Worthy Hibernian Brothers:

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and safe. Our monthly meeting scheduled for this Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 7 pm, will again be held via video conference. I will send an email out during the week inviting all members to join. If anyone is interested in joining the video meeting, but unsure how it works, I'll be happy to go over the particulars with you. Just give me a call at the number below. If video conferencing is not for you, we

can arrange to have you join the meeting by audio.

The Fall is a critical time of year for us, and our division would greatly appreciate your input at our meetings. Some of the items we will be discussing at this meeting is nominating a slate of Officers for our upcoming fiscal year. We are also looking for members who may be interested in holding an Officer position in our division. Please contact me if you are interested in taking a position or know someone who may be interested. Other items up for discussion in the coming months is the annual budget and our yearly donations at Christmas time.

I'm not sure when we will be able to meet again in person, but hopefully soon.

Please be safe,

IOM Jack Simila  
(919)730-7394

## Business Meetings

NEXT ZOOM Business Meeting on Nov. 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.

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**HIBERNIANS**  
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**Early Monk's Grave**  
County Donegal

## A Bit of Irish History

***During the Great Hunger a group of 600 starving peasants set out for Doolough to find food. Most of them did not survive. RAY CLEERE tells the story behind the tragic events of 170 years ago***

Doolough Pass is a spectacular setting near Doolough (which means 'Black Lake' in Irish) between Mweelrea Mountain and the Sheeffry Hills in County Mayo. There, two memorials mark the spot as a reminder of one of the blackest events in Irish history: the Doolough Tragedy which occurred 171 years ago on Friday night, March 30th, 1849, during the Great Famine.

One memorial is a plain stone cross engraved with the words: 'Doolough Tragedy 1849'. The other bears the inscription: "To commemorate the hungry poor who walked here in 1849 and who walk the Third World today."

People in Doolough recall that in 1849 people who lived in the town of Louisborough in South County Mayo at the time – around 600 in total which included women and children – were starving as a result of the Great Famine.

At the time it was rumoured that if they walked to Delphi Lodge where the landlord and the council guardians were, then they would be given food. To-

day, in 2019, 170 years later, it is a very beautiful walk by the shores of the Killary and Doolough lakes.

But it was bleak and freezing when those people set out on that terrible Friday night 170 years ago, March 30th, 1849, on their journey to meet their landlord. Wearing light bedtime clothing and with only blankets and shawls for protection in the atrocious weather conditions which prevailed at the time, those starving people were forced to walk more than 20 miles from Louisborough to Delphi Lodge to attend an inspection and get Famine Relief. Many walked in their bare feet. When they eventually got to Delphi Lodge, they were told that the guardians could not be disturbed while they were having their lunch. When they eventually did see them, the people were sent away empty-handed and most of them died on the journey back.

Later, people found corpses – including those of women and children – by the side of the road between Delphi Lodge and Louisborough overlooking the shores of Doolough Lake, with grass in their mouths which they had been eating for want of food.

It was estimated that more than 400 people died at Doolough on what was for them an extremely fatiguing journey back through that terrible night and into the next day. Several people never reached their homes. Local folklore maintains that the number of people who died, given their state of debilitation and because of the ordeals they were forced

to endure, was far higher than was ever known.

Every year since 1988 there has been a walk along this route in memory of the Doolough dead and to highlight the starvation of the world's poor still today. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has done it, the children of Chernobyl have done it. So has the Celticist of Sarajevo, Vedran Smailovic who played daily in his city despite sniper fire in the 1990s while it was under siege. And Kim Phuc - the woman who was made famous in photographs of her as a girl running naked and burned by napalm in Vietnam - she has done it too. As have Native American Indians. When they learned of the tragedy in 1849, members of the Choctaw tribe raised the equivalent of \$710, which they donated to Irish famine relief. They did so because the story reminded them of their own plight when, 18 years earlier, they were forcibly removed from their land by the white man to make way for modern-day Oklahoma. Their march was some 500 miles and they lost lives along the way. The Indians' march became known as the Trail of Tears.

In 1992 a group of Irish people returned the Choctaw Indians' kindness by walking the Trail of Tears, raising a huge \$710,000 which they donated to famine relief in Africa.

The annual commemoration of those events of March 1849 leading to the Doolough Tragedy ensures the people's sacrifice in these parts will never be forgotten.

## AOH Calls on Administration to Support Good Friday Agreement and Irish Protocol

The Ancient Order of Hibernians welcomes news of the trip to Ireland by the United States Special Envoy Mick Mulvaney and his comment to RTE Television that the United States would "protect and defend" the Good Friday Agreement. However, the Hibernians are disappointed that there seems to be a continued reluctance by the administration to make a clear, concise, and unambiguous statement that preserving the Good Friday Agreement by precluding the return of a British border in Ireland is a U.S. priority and necessary precondition to future U.S./U.K. agreements. The Hibernians believe that it is not enough to say "[Congress's] *attitude is 'look the British need to know that if a border goes up, then all deals are off'*" as being reflective of the federal government, the administration, as the Executive Branch of the U.S. government, must also make clear its own support for the Good Friday Agreement and that it will not accept it being undermined by a British border in Ireland.

Ref: [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com)

## Prayer List

### All those who have health problems

-**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 D's** sister, Maryellen, suffering from multiple strokes.

-**Frank King**-Recovering from colon surgery

-**Mike McGee**-Being treated for shingles

-**Jim Calpin**, Recovering from Surgery

-**Dan Harrington**- recovering from knee replacement surgery; undergoing leukemia treatment.

**Dan Harrington's son, Daniel**-Undergoing neck surgery

## In Memorium

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

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

-**Robert O'Connor**

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 children  
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  
[jacksimila@gmail.com](mailto:jacksimila@gmail.com)

Vice President-Frank King  
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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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Webmaster-Dan Harrington  
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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](#)

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