

# THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

## THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016 EDITION

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**MATT DULLAGHAN**



## Nollaig shona dhaoibh!



Happy Christmas to us all! As the year draws to a close, and many of us are fortunate enough to have time to spend with family and friends, I hope you also have a chance to remember and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Each of our parishes has programs reaching out to those who need help with food, shelter, and clothing, and I commend to you these opportunities to share the spirit of the season.

We did indeed have a wonderful year. We enjoyed another successful St. Patrick's Day Event at Church Hill and celebration at O'Toole's. We again bested ourselves with another record-setting Raffle Ticket sale, under Mike McGee's leadership. We had a sunny, if blustery, time at the Celtic Festival and Games and made a good start on our Raffle Ticket sales for 2017. With Dan Harrington's hard work, we had a successful encore Irish History Presentation. And we just had a wonderful Christmas dinner at O'Toole's.

With the record number of raffle ticket sales this past year we were able to continue our Charitable Missions Funding through

the local parishes. Checks are going out this month. Raffle ticket sales continue to account for the bulk of our fundraising. If you do not have raffle tickets to sell, please pick them up at our next regular meeting, January 12, at St. Joseph's.

At the Christmas dinner, we elected the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee for 2017:

**President:**  
Matt Dullaghan

**Vice President:**  
Jack Simila

**Recording Secretary:** Jim Calpin

**Treasurer:**  
Dan Harrington

**Financial Secretary:**  
Larry Kelly

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### Meeting Schedule

- NEXT Business Meeting at St. Joseph's Church on Jan. 12th 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.

### Dues Notice

2017 Dues are payable starting next month. Dues remain at \$40 and for those over 75, dues are \$20.

Pay at Division Meetings or mail check to:

**Larry Kelly**  
**1711 Bellevue Ave. D1216**  
**Richmond, VA 23227**

Please make checks payable to:

**AOH Msgr. Kelly Division**

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# Some Irish Christmas Traditions

**Ireland**, like most countries, has a number of Christmas traditions that are all of its own. Many of these customs have their root in the time when the Gaelic culture and religion of the country were being suppressed and it is perhaps because of that they have survived into modern times.

## THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas eve is still practiced today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was an symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travelled looking for shelter.

The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass as, during Penal Times this was not allowed. A further element of the tradition is that the candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'.

## THE LADEN TABLE

After evening meal on Christmas eve the kitchen table was again set and on it were placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveler, could avail of the welcome.

## THE WREN BOY PROCESSION

During Penal Times there was once a plot in a village against the local soldiers. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as 'The Devil's bird'.

On St. Stephens day a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has to a large degree disappeared but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephens Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

## DECORATIONS:

The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th.) and it is considered to be bad luck to take them down beforehand.

## TRADITIONAL GAELIC SALUTATION

The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is:

'Nollaig Shona Duit'

.....which is pronounced as 'null-ig hun -a dit'.

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## Christmas in Ireland



## **Christmas Party-O'Toole's Pub**

This year's party went off great! John O'Toole decorated the room in a



Christmas theme, with Irish music playing quietly in the background.

There was lots of craic among our crowd; a great turnout!

Our service was well organized and everything went smoothly. Good food

and dessert was enjoyed by all. Having the raffle for the poinsettias was a great idea. Your editor won a small poinsettia pot-



ted plant but, of course, left it on the table, just like my leftover Mexican food at Casa Grande last week.

A few division business items were discussed by our President, Matt Dullaghan, mainly the election of officers,

who were approved by voice vote.

Thanks to Larry Kelly for organizing



and making that happen. Larry also presented Frank King with his Past President's pin.

Lastly, a prayer was offered by Matt for our past Treasurer, Bill Murphy, who died suddenly this past November 11th.

## **President's Message** (continued from page 1)

### **Compassion and Standing Committee Chairman:**

Mike Dougherty

### **Marshall:**

Frank Flannagan

### **Sentinel:**

John Frampton

They will be installed at the January 12 regular meeting. I look forward to their help, and to the continued help from the Past Presidents Council, to have an even better 2017!

We of course plan to continue with raffles ticket sales, festivals in the spring and fall, and dinners at O'Tooles. And Dr. Gordon was enthusiastic about another history presentation – he hopes maybe to find a happier topic, after covering Cromwell's aggressions and the Great Hunger. In addition, I hope in the next several weeks to get in touch with many of you and hear what you'd like the division to do, what would inspire you to spend more of your valuable time in fellowship.

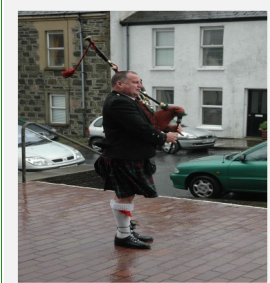
We need to recruit new members. Bring him to a meeting, or give his name to one of the officers and we'll follow up.

Until we meet again, raise a glass in my father's favorite toast:

**Sláinte mhaith agat!**



## PRAYER LIST AND IN MEMORIUM



### Prayer List

**Matt McGuire's** father, Edward, diagnosed with Alzheimer's

**Mike Dougherty** and also his wife, Diana. Mike's daughter-in-law Gale, who has heart disease and diabetes; also Mike's brother-in-law James Cramsie

**Brian McLaughlin's** parents Martin and MaryAnn.

**Rick Brennan's** wife.

**George Rodenberg-**  
Now in a nursing home

**Paul Kinnery-**Recovering from a series of strokes

**Dan Harrington—**Temporarily off chemo for leukemia

**Bob Strutton-**

**Mike McGee-**Recovering from surgery

### In Memorium

**Brother William Murphy-Kelly** Division Treasurer

**Irene McGee-**Wife of Past President Michael McGee

**Yolanda Savelli-**Sister of Diana Dougherty

**Emma King-**mother of Past Pres. Frank King, at the age of 103.

**Stephen Dougherty,** son of Mike and Diana Dougherty, died suddenly on Feb. 23, 2016

**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

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## 2016 Division Officers

President-Matthew Dullaghan  
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Treasurer-Bill Murphy  
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Recording Secretary-James Calpin  
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Financial Sec.-Conor Shiel  
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Marshall-Frank Flannagan  
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Sentinel-John Frampton  
[firemedic45@comcast.net](mailto:firemedic45@comcast.net)

Compassion Committee-Mike Dougherty  
[dianadougherty46@yahoo.com](mailto:dianadougherty46@yahoo.com)

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:

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.AOHKELLY.ORG](http://WWW.AOHKELLY.ORG)

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## 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

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[Irish Times](#)

2480 Batterson Road

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