



# Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American



MSGR. CHARLES A. KELLY, JR.  
DIVISION 44PO010007

JUNE 2021 EDITION  
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 6



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

Worthy Brothers,

Even though summer does not officially start until June 21<sup>st</sup>, the hot summer days are finally here. I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and spending time outdoors.

We have one last meeting before our summer break. I hope to see you all in attendance this Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 7 pm. We have two items to discuss, raffle ticket sales and our State Convention.

Ticket sales first. Great news! We do have the "Trip to Ireland" raffle this year. The raffle is on, and the drawing date is July 4, 2021. Both online sales and paper tickets are available. If you are interested in obtaining hard tickets, give me a call; I have tickets in my posses-

sion, and I will bring them to the monthly meeting or contact me, and we'll make arrangements to meet. To get the raffle online, click the link below. For our Division to get credit for the sale, remember to check the **AOH Kelly-Powhatan** box when purchasing tickets. As a reminder, you can share this link with friends and family:

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/aohraffle>

The next item is our State Convention. I forwarded an email to all members regarding the Call to Convention. Our friends over at the Dooley Division are hosting the convention this year, and they could use our help. Please consider volunteering a few hours over the convention weekend. The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Innsbrook, 4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060, from August 20, through August 22, 2021.

Enjoy your summer and continue to be safe. I look forward to seeing each of you at our June business meeting. If not, then hopefully over the summer or our Septem-

## Business Meetings

NEXT Business Meeting will be held at St. Joseph's, Bon Air, on June 10, 2021 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

2021 Dues are now payable. 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**

at:

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



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ber meeting. The coronavirus pandemic has affected many of our brother Hibernians and their families, as well as our community. If you know of any brother Hibernian in need, please contact me.

If you need to reach me, please call or send a text message to my number 919-730-7394. An email will also work, but sometimes I can't check my email for a few days, and my response to emails may be delayed.

I hope to hear from you and see you during our meetings and activities.

Please be safe,

IOM

Jack Simila

919-730-7394

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## A Bit of Irish History

A hunger strike which lasted 66 days resulted in the death 40 years ago of one of the most internationally-prominent Irish republican prisoners, Bobby Sands.

On May 5th, 1981, Sands died in the H-Block prison hospital at Long Kesh, the Maze prison outside Belfast. Sands was elected a Member of Parliament for Fermanagh/South Tyrone while he was jailed.

He embarked on the fatal hunger strike while imprisoned for activities related to the IRA's armed campaign

against the British government.

Sands' childhood, which included several assaults by unionist paramilitaries and local Protestant gangs, led to his decision to volunteer for the IRA in 1972.

The 27-year-old was the first of 10 hunger strikers to die in



the struggle over the UK's attempted criminalisation of what the republican's described as their struggle for political freedom.

Sands had gone without food and spent his last two days in a coma, before his body was brought back to his home in Belfast's Twinbrook estate.

It was a hunger strike that changed the course of Northern Ireland's conflict. The IRA leader's death marked a watershed in the Troubles, helping to pave the way for the IRA's political wing Sinn Féin.

The hunger strikers calculated that being ready to sacrifice their lives for their convictions would fire up their supporters and force the new British Conservative prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, to compromise.

Mrs. Thatcher never wavered. "Crime is crime is crime," she

said. "It is not political. It is crime. There can be no question of political status."

In the weeks and days before Sands died, there were two major attempts to unconditionally end the hunger strike. The first was an intervention by the European Commission on Human Rights. This was

supported by the Dublin Government and the SDLP as a way to alleviate nationalist pressure on them to take Britain to task by supporting the prisoners' demands.

First, three masked men fire volleys of rifle shots in

1981 over the coffin of hunger-striker Bobby Sands. Photo: PA Archive.

The second was the visit to Sands from the Pope's Private Secretary, Fr. John Magee. Both interventions ended in failure following reaffirmations to their relatives by Sands and some of the other hunger strikers, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara that they would not settle for less than their five demands.

A month after his election as an MP in a snap election in the Westminster constituency following the death of a sitting politician, Sands died. It was estimated by authorities at the time that around 100,000 mourners attended his funeral.

Over the next three months, nine other hunger strikers

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were buried with full IRA honors. Most had gone without food for more than 60 days.

Former Dublin Lord Mayor, independent councilor in the Capital's north inner city and former Sinn Féin member Christy Burke said: "Forty years ago today Ireland lost a true son, Bobby Sands. Thinking of all of Bobby's family this morning and I send my condolences to them.

"We salute all who passed away, I also pay tribute and salute the hunger strikers who gave their lives in English and Irish jails."

Sands's death launched enormous reaction around the world; hundreds of thousands marched in support of the prisoners' demands, a statement of "deep regret" was issued by the US government, Irish unions waged strikes, newspapers around the world condemned Mrs Thatcher to allow a fellow member of parliament to die, and riots flared up on the streets of Northern Ireland.

Shortly thereafter, reforms for all prisoners were granted that largely met their demands.

### Prayer List

-**Mike Dougherty** being treated for Chron's disease; 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**, Diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and now back at Brookdale. Will be entering hospice.

All those who have health problems

### In Memorium

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

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

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 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

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## 2021 Division Officers

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Vice President- Open

Treasurer-*John Frampton*  
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Recording Secretary-*Mike Norton*  
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Sentinel-*Jim Dunn*  
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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 its 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:

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

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

[Contact Editor](#)



## A HIBERNIAN 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 encourage us, "Pray the Rosary." We have a LOT to pray for and pray about.



## Links

[AOH National](#)

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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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Powhatan, VA 23139

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