



THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division 44PO010007

December 2021 Edition Volume 12 Issue 10

Nollaig shona duit!



Jack Simila Division President's Message

Worthy Hibernian Brothers:

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and happy. First, I want to thank you for your support over the past three years. I am honored to have held the position of Kelly Division President; I could not have asked for a better group of men to serve. As Charles Dickens said in A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Over

the last three years,

we saw new brothers join our division. We used Zoom meetings to overcome the restrictions on meeting location due to the Covid-19 virus. In 2021 we were successful with our Christmas Division Dinner and received news that the 2022 Celtic Festival and the Richmond St. Patrick's Festival are both in the planning stage. And, most importantly, as usual each year the division contributed a total of \$1,350 to local parishes.

The second thing I want to do is ask you to please welcome our incoming President, Brother Matt Dulaghan. Matt is a Past-President of our division and brings a great deal of experience. Please keep Matt and our new slate of officers in your prayers as they lead our division into a new year. Finally, we all know of the passing of our beloved brother, Jim Calpin. Jim was as fine of a man as you will ever meet. A great friend, a wonderful fam-

(Continued on page 2)

Business Meetings

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

Meetings are held at:
St. Joseph's Church
828 Buford Road
Richmond, VA 23235

2021 Business Meeting Schedule:

*December Business Meeting
Cancelled*

Our next regular Division Meeting is January 13, 2022

Regular socials are cancelled until January 27, 2022.

Contents

[A Bit of Irish History](#)

[Some Party Photos](#)

[Elected Slate of 2022](#)

[Division Officers](#)

[Information on Brother Calpin](#)

(Continued from page 1)

ily man, and the best example you can find of being Irish Catholic. God bless Jim and his family.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Jack Simila
 President
 Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division
jacksimila@gmail.com

A Bit of Irish History

In modern Christian cultures, we mark Winter Solstice as December 21-22 and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. But celebrating a supernatural birth on December 25 dates back to ancient pre-Christian times when the Celts celebrated Alban Arthuan, the Winter Solstice...the rebirth of the sun. December 25 was also the day the Romans celebrated the birth of the Sun God.

When Constantine legalized Christianity and declared it the official religion of the Roman Empire, he needed to find ways to help Roman society to make the transition to Christianity. Since Romans were already accustomed to celebrating the birth of a god on December 25, and since no exact day is mentioned in the Bible that tells us exactly when Jesus was born, Constantine strategically converged the ancient celebration of the birth of the Sun God with the Christian celebration of Christ's birth and declared December 25 the day of Christ's birth.

Since Irish Celts had been celebrating December 25 for a long time as the rebirth of the Sun, Irish Christians found it natural to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25.

So the Irish added a new holiday greeting to their language, "Nollaig Shona Duit" (pronounced 'null-ig hun-a dit'), which means "Happy Christmas" in Gaelic.

The Christmas season officially begins on December 8 in Ireland. A few days later, on December 12, some people in Ireland still carry on the old tradition of celebrating "Women's Christmas", or Nollaig na mBan in Gaelic.

(Continued on page 4)

News For the Division

.At this time, the Central Virginia Celtic Festival is planning the 2022 event for October. As of now, no dates are available.

The Church Hill St. Patrick's Festival is also being planned but no dates are available yet.



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!

Visit aohapparel.com

Kelly Division Annual Christmas Dinner December 12, 2021 at O'Toole's Pub



Carol and Jack Simila



Cavanaughs and Dunns



Sonny & Jim: 2020 Hibernians of the Year



The Kings and Dorishs



Our new President, Matt Dullaghan



Our Past President, Jack Simila

(Continued from page 2)

Although many here in America believe the "12 days of Christmas" end with Christmas Day, they actually begin on December 25. In Ireland, Christmas is celebrated beyond December 25, though. Christmas Eve ends with a midnight Christmas Mass. Then Christmas Morning arrives with gifts from Santa and the big feast. The day after Christmas is celebrated too...St. Stephen's Day. And the Christmas season doesn't officially end until January 6, the day of the Epiphany. Also known as "Little Christmas" in Ireland.

In Memorium

Brother Jim Calpin passed away on December 8th.

Jim's obituary can be found at [Bliley's Funeral Home](#)

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Friday, January 7, 2022, at Bliley's Chippenham Funeral Home, 6900 Hull Street Road, Richmond, Va. from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10 a.m. at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 2700 Dolfield Drive, North Chesterfield, Va., immediately followed by a commitment in the church's columbarium.

**Elected Slate of Kelly Division
Officers for 2022**

President-

Matt Dullaghan

Vice-President-

Dennis Mulligan

Recording Secretary-

Mike Norton

Treasurer-

John Frampton

Financial Secretary-

Larry Kelly

Chairman-Standing Committee-

Sonny Dorish

Marshall-

Bob Cavanaugh

Sentinal-

Jim Dunn

Prayer List

Brother Dan Harrington: Being treated for Lukemia on a monthly basis.

Brother Jim Dunn: Recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Michael Manning: Nephew of Dan Harrington who was just released from hospital after 21 days recovery from intestinal surgery. Diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer.

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

2021 Division Officers

President-*Jack Simila*
jacksimila@gmail.com

Vice President- Open

Treasurer-*John Frampton*
firemedic45@comcast.net

Recording Secretary-*Mike Norton*
mnortonstn@aol.com

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

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Our Division History

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.



The Road to Kinnegoe Beach, Donegal

LINKS

[AOH National](#)

[Irish Museum-DC](#)

[AOH Virginia](#)

[The Wild Geese](#)

[AOH Kelly](#)

[Irish Times](#)

[AOH Dooley](#)

[Irish Echo](#)

[Irish Culture and Customs](#)