

THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

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

December 2021 Edition Volume 12 Issue 10

Nollaig shona duit!



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

Jack Simila Division President's Message

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 Dullaghan. 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

December 2021 Edition Volume 12 Issue 10

(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 re*birth* 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)

<u>News For the</u> <u>Division</u>

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.

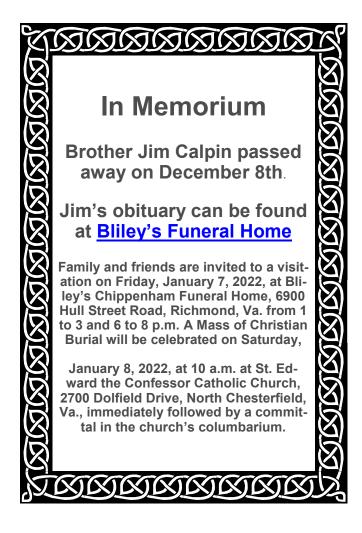




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(Continued from page 2)

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.



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 <u>mnortonstn@aol.com</u>

Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly <u>ilkelly1@verizon.net</u>

Standing/Compassion Comm.-*Mike* Dougherty <u>dianadougherty46@yahoo.com</u>

Marshal-Sonny Dorish fmdorish@yahoo.com

Sentinel-*Jim Dunn* jimdunn367@gmail.com

Webmaster-Dan Harrington joydan1073@verizon.net

Contact us at:

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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 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.



The Road to Kinnegoe Beach, Donegal

LINKS

AOH National

AOH Virginia

AOH Kelly

AOH Dooley

Irish Culture and Customs

Irish Museum-DC

The Wild Geese

Irish Times

Irish Echo