



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



# THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

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

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2022

*Division President's Message*

**Matt Dullaghan**



Brothers:

Unfortunately, our President, Matt Dullaghan, will be unable to send his monthly message as he is still traveling.

In Friendship, Unity and  
Christian Charity,  
Matthew Dullaghan, President  
Msgr. Charles A. Kelly Division,  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Div. No. 44PO01

## 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

### 2022 Business Meeting Schedule:

*Our next regular Division Meeting  
is September 8, 2022*

**Socials at O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114 on the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 5PM.**

## A Bit of Irish History and Mythology

About forty years ago, my wife and I visited her uncle and family on his farm in County Limerick. An interesting thing happened while walking with him to see his two cows and a demonstration on cutting grass with a scythe. He brought me to a blackthorn bush and extoled on how proud he was of it and how old it was..

I remembered the occasion this past week and included a little history of the blackthorn below.

*The Blackthorn, which is widespread and abundant in woods and hedgerows throughout the British Isles, has the most sinister reputation within Celtic folklore, in ancient Ireland it was known as Straif, thought to be the origin of the word strife.*

*Although associated with trouble and bad luck, it is also associated with the overcoming of these negative aspects and the transformation that this struggle can bring.*

*Cailleach the Celtic goddess of winter is depicted as a blue veiled old woman with a raven on one shoulder and a blackthorn staff which she uses to summon storms. She emerges at Samain and takes over the year from the summer goddess Brigid.*

*In Irish mythology the Blackthorn is inhabited by the Lunantisidhe, or moon fairies. The Lunantisidhe are thin and wizened in appearance. They have long pointed ears and long teeth. Their long arms and fingers enable them to climb easily. They are an unfriendly race of creatures who curse those who disturb the plant at Samhain or Beltane. They leave the bushes at full moon in order to worship the moon goddess, so this is considered the safest time to cut wood to make shillelaghs or harvest the berries of the plant (sloes).*

*Witches were said to make staffs and wands from the wood of the plant and the thorns were used to prick wax images of those that they cursed. The crown of thorns that Jesus was forced to wear is reputed to have been made from the Blackthorn.*



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*It is thought that this is one of the trees which crosses the barrier between this world and that of the spirit or fairie. Meditating under the tree would allow you to talk to these beings, but an amulet is necessary in order for you to return.*

*Much of the plant's reputation is probably due to the black bark and the long viciously sharp thorns which cover it. Scratches from these thorns often go septic.*



*Although the fruit of the tree is the ancestor of all our cultivated plumbs, the wild sloe is one of the most bitter fruits and just biting into the green flesh will cover your mouth*

*with fur.*

*But overcome these obstacles and the berries can be used to make a fast, pale blue dye and all parts of the plant are said to have medicinal properties.*

*Possibly the most common use of the plant though is in the production of Sloe Gin. The sloes are traditionally harvested in September/ October after the first frost has "bletted" the fruit and removed some of the acidity. (In the modern world this can be simulated by freezing the fruit after harvesting.*



## In Memorium

*Brother Mike Dougherty passed away suddenly on August 6, 2022.*

## Prayer List

Brother Dan Harrington: Being treated monthly for Lukemia., CKD, etc.

## **2022 Division Officers**

President-*Matt Dullaghan*  
[mdullaghan@comcast.net](mailto:mdullaghan@comcast.net)

Vice President- *Dennis Mulligan*  
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Treasurer-*John Frampton*  
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Recording Secretary-*Mike Norton*  
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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.