

ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 55

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Summer 1990

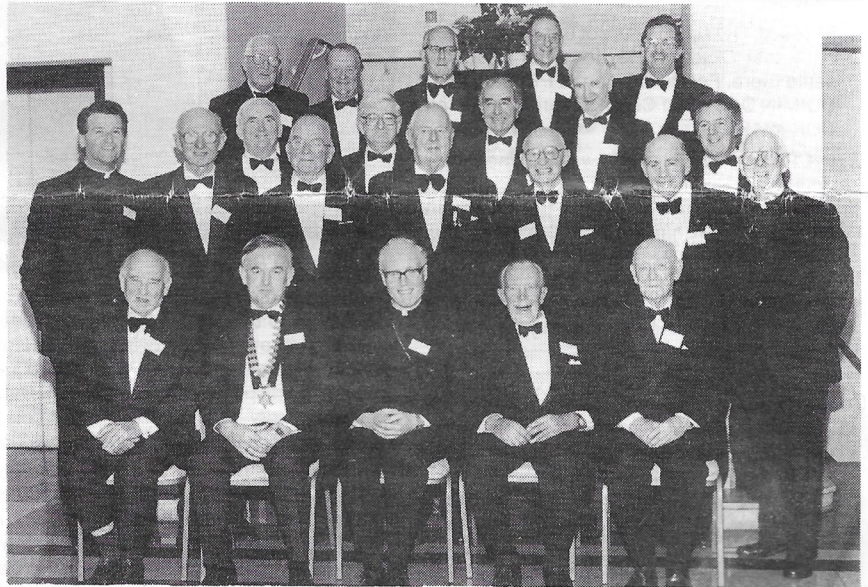
Diamond Jubilee Dinner

On the journey through life we are invariably presented with a certain few indelible memories. For those of us present in the Gresham Hotel on Saturday, the 16th of December, one such memory was enshrined. The occasion was the Union's Diamond Jubilee Dinner, which was to be held on the exact date of the founding of the Union and to add to the strong sense of history, it was in the same function room as that graced by the men from the past.

From about 7 p.m. that evening, the guests began to arrive. All surviving presidents of the past pupil's union had been invited to attend and the vast majority were able to do so. Here were men who had sat through Central Committee Meetings on countless Sunday afternoons, lending their various areas of expertise for the advancement of the union and of Mount St. Joseph itself. Now they were back to assert their ongoing loyalty, and by their presence to symbolise a continuing tradition. They mingled with the present incumbents from the union branches, those men charged with the responsibility of advancing union affairs into the next century. What was heartening was to see each branch of the Union represented, a tribute to the organisational skills of president Sean Murphy, Gen. Secretary, Fr. Dermot and organiser-in-chief, Conor Massey. Events like this don't just happen — they are made to happen and these three discharged their responsibility with great aplomb.

After a judicious period of pre-dinner imbibing, all sat for dinner and what a feast it proved to be. The cornets of smoked salmon were summarily dispatched and, after a brief hiatus for the Broccoli Soup, the saddle of lamb was attacked with gusto, all courses aided and abetted by liberal servings of very palatable wines. (Incidentally, in case the cynics amongst you might question my judgement, my dinner companion was a non-drinker "the only one in my year not to drink" — and he was equally impressed by the culinary offerings). All too quickly the coffee stage arrived and by now the conversation, reminiscing and slugging, were all in full flow. Each table was akin to a separate republic, enjoying its particular anecdotes and memories.

The toasts that followed deserve special mention. Interspersed with highly-apt musical interludes, this part of the reunion lasted two hours. Remarkably that did not include a moment's boredom, a tribute both to the



Front Row l. to r.: Thomas Hogan, Sean Murphy, Abbot Colmcille, John Dunne, Denis Crowley.

Second Row: Thomas Haugh, John Fitzpatrick, Ignatius Houlihan, Peter Walsh, Seamus O'Brien, Fr. Dermot.

Third Row: Tom Ambrose, Frank Lynch, John Walsh, Kevin Dwan.

Fourth Row: Seamus Sherry, Pdraig Mulcahy, Gerard Bates, Matt Hyland, Pat O'Shea.

speakers and to their audience. What was said? Well all the speeches have been recorded for posterity thanks to the foresight of Jim Egan, who videod the entire proceedings. I don't intend here to attempt to reproduce the various speeches, but instead to offer some kind of description of the impression they created. At the outset let it be said that these speeches were no meaningless meanderings nor could they be described as in any way triumphalist or conceited. What was most impressive was the cumulative philosophy of all the speakers, a philosophy that expressed the essence of Roscrea. All the speakers saw Roscrea as more than a boarding school for boys. It was (and is) a boarding school with a monastic dimension that is all pervasive. It's commitment to education embraces more than the purely academic. Speakers like Professor John Dunne and Professor Denis Crowley stressed how in the early years it was impressed upon boys that they would have vital roles to play in the emerging State and that it was expected of them that they would bring to such future roles the philosophy and values of C.C.R. The words of such legends as Fr. Ailbe and Jack Murphy were recalled and restated in the context of the present generation.

The evening also enjoyed three verbal contributions from the monks present, the Abbot

Dom Colmcille O'Toole, the school president Fr. Kevin Daly and the Union's long-serving General Secretary, Fr. Dermot O Colmáin. I don't know of any previous Union function with such a number of monks in attendance and this further testifies to the importance of the occasion. The monks stressed the role of the Union in college affairs, the on-going commitment of union officers to the well-being of the school and the need for such continued support.

Perhaps the most difficult task of the evening fell to Union President, Sean Murphy who was the last (official!) speaker of the evening. But this quiet-spoken gentleman had no problem whatever in holding his audience's attention and he also had an additional function to carry out. The highest honour that the Union can confer is that of Honorary Life Vice-President and the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Dinner was availed of to confer the honour on Ignatius Houlihan (Union President 1976-'78) and Noel Windle (Union President 1982-'84). The warmth and intensity of the applause that greeted the announcement is its own testimony to the approval of all present for such a conferring.

To describe the night as "special" simply attests to the restrictions of vocabulary. There was a wonderful sense of history in the room, a comradeship of shared experiences even if there were decades between them.

NEWS ABOUT PAST STUDENTS



RAYMOND MOLLOY (1980) of Mount Verdant, Kilkenny is now an Industrial Engineer with Digital International in Galway.

DONAL McHALE (1980) of Menlough, Ballinasloe is also with the same firm.

JOHN SHEEHY (1980) from Dingle married Gillian Gillen in October of last year.

MICHAEL McDONAGH (1982) from Headford, Co. Galway now working near Dursley, Gloucestershire, England was also married last October.

FERGAL DOYLE (1980) set out for Australia early last October. He does not intend to settle there. Fergal is a son of PROFESSOR CUIMHIN DOYLE of Cork University, who left CCR in 1952.

DR. PAUL HESLIN (1977) wrote to the Editor from Saskatchewan, Canada to "set the record straight about the three Heslin brothers". PAUL himself moved to Wakatane, New Zealand last December. FRANK (1974) is a Civil Engineer with the Portlaoise County Council. EOIN (1981) was in Australia for a short time but is now working as a Civil Engineer in Waterford.

FRANK FITZPATRICK (1971) from Clonmel, now lives in Portmarnock. He is married with three children. He is the Assistant Manager in the Bank of Ireland, Stoneybatter, Dublin.

JOHN HANNIFIN (1978) of Thurles, married recently. He took an Arts Degree when he left CCR. He worked for a short period in Rome with Mother Teresa.

FRANK DONOGHUE (1974) was the eldest of three brothers from Ballinderry. He and his wife Susan were conferred in Trinity with a Masters Degree in Education. They came back from Malaysia to do this course. Their aim is to do lecturing. They have one child.

KEVIN DONOGHUE (1975) went back to the home business, working with new and used cars. He is married with three children.

ANTHONY DONOGHUE (1977) was one of our distinguished "Young Scientists of the Year" when in CCR. He is an Entomologist. He also spent some time doing Archaeology in Greece and Egypt. He spent some time in Canada where he did a welding course for a year. Recently he was in Surrey studying Film and Video making.

PATRICK WALSH (1981) of Patrickwell, Co. Limerick, is an Accountant with the Halal Meat Packing Co. in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

JOHN WALSH (1983) brother of the above, is now farming in Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork.

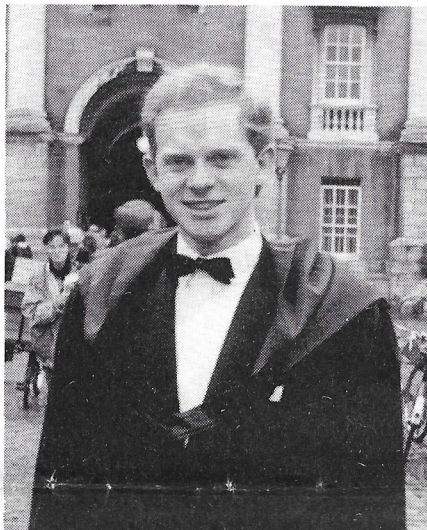
PHILIP TIERNEY (1970) from League, Thurles, is now Assistant Bank Manager in the Bank of Ireland, The Parade, Kilkenny.

PATRICK MURRIHY (1986) of Feenagh, Kilmallock took a two year course in Transport Management at Rathmines when he finished in CCR. He is now Manager of a transport and freight company in London. He drives his own company car.

PETTER MADDEN (1970) of Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath is in the family business at home.

JOHN MADDEN (1974) has completed his M.B.A. in France. He is married with one child.

DECLAN MADDEN (1975) is in Dublin with the F.G.E..



Lorcan O'Brien B.Sc., Thurles 1984

LORCAN O'BRIEN (1984) of Ambleside, Thurles, recently took his B. Sc. in Environmental Health at Trinity College. He is at present doing post graduate studies at Dublin City University.

PETER POWER (1985) from Kilmee, Co. Limerick is at present in Brussels. He took up Law when he left CCR. To quote from a recent letter: "EEC activity has taken on a huge significance in recent years and with 1992 looming, it is an exciting time to be in Brussels. I am part of a group of 400 graduates, drawn from 30 different countries, which was taken on last October. It has been fantastic to experience the different cultures and ideas. It is quite a privileged group - we have one of the Hapsburgs, a crown prince from an African country as well as many Ambassadors' children - however I am managing to hold my own among them! In March I move from Consumer Policy to the section that deals with the interests of small and medium sized industries. There is an Irish community of about 2,000 here. I haven't come across any ex-CCR men yet".

AIDAN CAREY (1974) son of Dr. Chris Carey, Roscrea, married Lynda Wozniak, 30th December '89 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His brother CHRIS (1969) is working in Los Angeles and JOHN (1967) is a doctor in Perth, Australia, married with a family.

DAVID POWDERLY (1980) married Cathy Lynch, December 1989. He was from Kilcock.

MAURICE FITZGERALD (1979) of Castle Gregory was married in March 1990. His wife's name is Doreen.

JOHN CONNOLLY (1974) of Enfield, Co. Meath is engaged to Marie Giles.

EOIN MCCARTHY (1983) formerly of Loughrea, now working in Dublin. Plans to get married next September. (Dublin Branch note). He lives at 25 Morehampton Square, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. 683269 H. 851211 x 435 W.

OLIVER M. BYRNE (1986) one of Liam Byrne's sons, Tullamaine, Callan. Now working in Dublin with Guinness Group. Lives at 8 Hadleigh Court, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. 681863 H. 536700 x 5997 W. Oliver is Secretary of the Dublin Branch of the Union.

MICHAEL GRACE (1978) from Ballyraggett is already an Architect and he is doing a Masters Degree in Management and Economics at London University.

DENIS KEANE (1986) from Cratloe, Co. Clare is doing Law in U.C.C.

JAMES SPILLANE (1971) from Aherla, Co. Cork is European Financial Controller for Cement Roadstone Holdings. He travels through Europe a lot and the recent changes there are opening vast new horizons.

ALAN GRACE (1969) from Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, now in Athlone where he is married with three children. Alan has an Hotel near Carraroe, to which he has added a complex with ten cottages.

BRENDAN SMYTH (1984) will qualify in Veterinary this year. He was from Raharney, Mullingar.

JOE HAYES (1967) is back in the diplomatic world again. This time at the Irish Embassy in London, where he is number two. Joe was Captain of the House during his final year. With PATRIZIO SALVADORI and AUSTIN VAUGHAN, he made up a formidable debating team in '67. His father JAMES, Cassestown House, Thurles was also a past student and finished in CCR 1932.

BRIAN GUINAN (1965) who was from Birr returns home for good this year. He has been in Bahrain for some time.

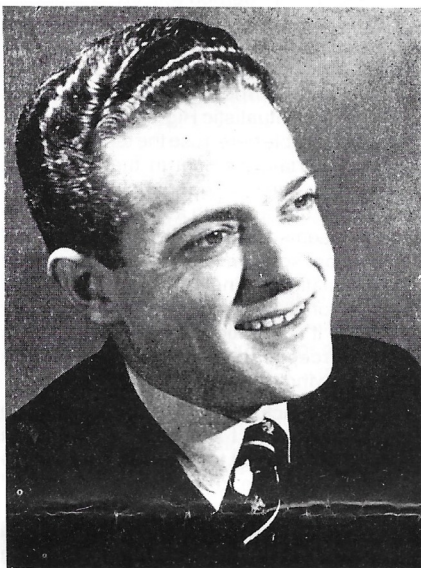


Abbot's Cub September '89
Paddy McGuire (1959) Winner

N.I.H.E. Limerick has been a popular venue for Roscrea men doing Third Level Education: GERALD GRACE (1988) Oola is doing Business Studies; NIALL SLATTERY (1986) Gorey hopes to graduate this year in Production Management; ALAN GORMAN (1986) Ballina, Co. Mayo. DERMOT DEERING (1988) Dunlavin and PAUL WILLIAMS (1989) Kilkee are doing European Studies. JOHN COUGHLAN (1977) of Limerick is in the ice cream business in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

The British/Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body has a membership of fifty MPs and TDs. Five of the latter are Past Pupils of CCR; DAVID ANDREWS (FF) (1954) Dublin; BRIAN COWAN (FF) (1977) Clara; TOM ENRIGHT (FG) (1960) Birr; DICK SPRING (Lab) (1968) Tralee; MICHAEL NOLAN (FF) (1969) Bagenalstown.

OBITUARIES



Seán Collins, R.I.P.

SEAMUS DEERING (1924) was a native of Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. A member of a renowned Irish rugby family, he was capped nine times for Ireland between 1935 and 1937. His late brother Mark had played for Ireland against Wales in 1929 and his son Shay played on eight occasions for Ireland between 1974 and 1978. It is ironic to think that while Seamus was in CCR rugby had not been played since 1916. It was not revived until 1926. His death came last summer, just a few months after his son Shay died at the age of forty. May they rest in peace.

JACK REA (1925) came from Roscrea where his family were chemists. He qualified as a pharmacist and opened a business in Dublin. He died early this year, R.I.P.

FR. JACK DEMPSEY (1933) was a native of Dublin. He studied for the Priesthood in Clonliff, and was ordained for the Dublin diocese in 1940. He was Parish Priest of Garristown, Co. Dublin when he retired. He died December 1989 (R.I.P.)

RICHARD STANISLAUS MELLOTT (1945). One of three brothers from the Neale, Co. Mayo, Stan was a champion handballer and played football for Mayo in his time. Later he settled in London where he died in November 1989 R.I.P. He was buried in the Neale. His sons JOE and RICHARD also came to CCR. The latter runs Mellotte Motors, Claregalway and Joe is in business in London.

CANON JEREMIAH (GERARD) WHELAN (1930) of Mitchelstown died in Amesbury, England, last Autumn.

DANIEL O'KEEFFE, (1925) an Engineer from Mitchelstown, R.I.P.

MSGR. DOMINIC BARRY (1935) from Thurles died in Florida last year R.I.P.

DENIS F. MCCARTHY (1934) a native of Swinford, Co. Mayo. Lived in Dublin for over thirty years and died there last June R.I.P. Denis is still remembered by his contemporaries for his rendering of "Dame Hannah" in Riddigore in 1932. His son Bradley also came to C.C.R. and finished there in 1972.

ANTHONY DUNNE (1925) died peacefully at his home, Ballyorney Farm, on 10th January, 1990. We offer our deep sympathy to his wife and family. He was a brother of John, Michael and Laurence, R.I.P.

PADDY MORIARTY (1932) was a native of Birr. He qualified in Engineering at U.C.D. and built up a successful business in south Wales since the war. A very active supporter of the Union, he was Chairman of the London Branch at the time of his death late last year. His ashes were brought back to Roscrea for burial, after Mass and the funeral from the College Chapel on 9th December. It was attended by his wife Chris, and his family, the Monks, and many past students. May he rest in peace.

SEAN GOHERY (1960) from Mullagh, Loughrea died early this year. He was a teacher and unmarried. R.I.P.



Paddy Moriarty, R.I.P.

Fr. Joseph Power died on April 18th 1990, after a long illness.

James Power was born in Kilmallock Co. Limerick, on March 25th 1907, one of three children. He had one brother and one sister, both of whom predeceased him. He grew up on the family farm and attended the local primary school and then came to Cistercian College Roscrea, where he completed his secondary education.

He entered the monastery in 1926, and after the usual formation was solemnly professed and later ordained priest. From the time of this Solemn Profession he worked in the school, first teaching and then as Dean or housemaster. He remained in the College until the year 1948, so that he was known to generations of boys. Many of the pastmen who visit the monastery today recall him as a strict disciplinarian, and as a keen sportsman. He was particularly interested in and fostered Gaelic games, and was also an accomplished athletic coach.

He was appointed Novice Master by Abbot Camillus in 1948, and a year later was appointed Prior.



Mrs. Phil Carroll, R.I.P.

MRS. PHIL CARROLL — AN APPRECIATION

All those associated with CCR were greatly saddened by the tragic death of Mrs. Phil Carroll who supervised Clairvaux House, the second home of many senior boys of the College. Deeply mourned by her husband Pat who is House-Master in the College and her four young children, Phil will be sincerely missed by the hundreds of past and present students whose lives she touched during her tragically short five years working in the school.

The large number of past students who attended her funeral was a testimony to Phil's great ability to understand and support young men during the difficult years of boarding school. All those who came in contact with her were deeply impressed by her great faith and belief in the message of Jesus Christ — that we are called on to love and accept our neighbour and help him in any way we can. Every day of her life Phil lived out this message not only as a friend to the students of the College but also as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor.

Those who remain after her in Roscrea can only lament that the school has lost one of its most loved and sensitive figures but we can take consolation in the certainty that Phil has received the eternal reward which she deserved so richly and that as she gave so generously of herself during her lifetime she is now watching over us and praying for those whose lives she touched.

Mark Redmond (1984).

The Class of 1952

Fr. Andrew Fennessy, at present in the Cistercian Monastery of Tarrawarra near Melbourne, Australia, sends out a call to the men of 1952 to organize a REUNION of the class that left that year, and mark the fortieth anniversary of their leaving in 1992. Where are they now? Any volunteers out there who will try and find out... experience has taught us that it takes about two years to organize this. Andy promises to be back!

Cambridge Thoughts

The new student comes up to Cambridge with certain preconceptions. This is especially true of the foreigner, like myself, who is informed more by its mythology than by any prior experience of the place. These preconceptions tend to be both right and wrong.

If you watch "Chariots of Fire" you will see both chivalry and snobbery (and fine buildings, also, though "Cambridge" in the movie was actually Eton). If you read C.P. Snow's "The Masters", you will be introduced to a hierarchical world of academic in-fighting, in the strangle hold of tradition, where students and learning matter hardly a jot. Any history of espionage will tell the reader of the political and intellectual ferment of the 'thirties which produced a gaggle of Soviet spies from the British elite. And Tom Sharpe's "Porterhouse Blue" sends it all up notoriously with a tale of the clash of reactionary dons with a liberal reformer. Of such stuff are preconceptions formed.

It is all true — up to a point. The snobbery of Cambridge is everywhere evident (the chivalry less so), not least in the relations of town and gown. The byzantine intrigues of the denizens of her ivory towers are occasionally publicised, as in the recent contest between Thatcherite and anti-Thatcherite candidates for the Mastership of Trinity College, the third richest institution in Britain after the Crown and the Church of England. A few of the Cambridge Communists are left (though the greatest of them, E.H. Carr, died a few years ago). Truest of all is Tom Sharpe's depiction of the often fierce struggle between the forces of tradition and innovation. Only two years ago, as the Master and Fellows of Magdalene College met to decree the admission of women to its august halls (in order to arrest declining academic standards), students and old boys paraded with a coffin in the quadrangle outside, threw it in the nearby river Cam, and founded the Black October Club, whose members wear the college tie with a black band of mourning introduced to the usual design. (Would the same happen in Roscrea, one wonders, in such momentous circumstances?) A tour of the city and of its riverside colleges, marvels of architecture and of conservation, and a feast for the eye on a sunny day, should be enough to convince one that Cambridge is a place where such things happen, and that the University has retained its historic role as educator of Britain's elite and home of her greatest academics and eccentrics — purveyor, by appointment to (and subsidy of) Her Majesty's Government, of idyllic surroundings for the pursuit of learning.

But equally, one's preconceptions can be very wrong indeed. The student body (hardly surprisingly, really) does not bedeck itself in blazers and boaters in the summer term, nor does it present a phalanx of tweed and waxed cotton in the misty months of autumn. It has some of the scruffiness characteristic of students everywhere. Nor are these students all the products of public schools (a term which must once have been an ironic euphemism), as efforts continue to take in more state pupils. Also for example the University suffers the same funding crisis which is the lot of every seat of higher learning.

To say that Cambridge is thus like any other British university would, however, be a serious misrepresentation. Layers of accumulated tradition ensure that the impact of modern developments like egalitarian admissions policies and tight-fisted governments can only be superficial. The undergraduate body is still astoundingly homogenous, comprised predominantly of white English upper middle class privately educated youth. The vast wealth of the constituent colleges subsidises a staff-student ratio greatly in excess of the U.K. average, or of anything seen in Ireland. The history and practices of the University and of its colleges give its members a well warranted sense of past and present privilege.

The reason preconceptions about a place like Cambridge are both right and wrong is that they are usually based on a very false notion of tradition. Tradition here is very strong, but it is not generally speaking a self-conscious thing. It is not the fake tradition of Ye Olde England presented for tourists' benefit. (Tourists see very little of it). It is lived, because it is useful, or convenient, or politic, or enjoyable. By and large, a certain healthy ordinariness attends it.

It is, for example, for the scions of Britain's well-to-do to be educated here — but the result is a bland sameness in the undergraduate body (happily not replicated in the more international post-graduate ranks). It is traditional to dine by candlelight in Hall in the various colleges, ideally with good food, generous hospitality and intelligent conversation — but this is far too pleasant a practice to have survived merely for tradition's sake. In the same way, students punt on the Cam not because it is traditional, but because it is superbly relaxing on a summer's day. College officers may have grand titles, but have very work-a-day functions. The student bicycles which throng the streets are both picturesque and necessary. All of which is to say that the application of modern buzzwords like "tradition" and "heritage" to the university's ancient pursuits does not weigh them down with special meaning or moment: they constitute, as any set of practices does, a particular way of life, albeit one reserved for a privileged few. It is very pleasant indeed, but hardly conducive to any especial happiness or state of grace, as the hawkers of "heritage" might like to suggest. The attribution of special qualities to tradition generally occurs when such a way of life is under threat — I was certainly more aware of that attitude in Trinity College, Dublin, than I am here.

This does not mean that the effect of tradition is neutral. The identification of Cambridge with things ancient, learned and worthy tends to have a circular, amplifying effect, attracting those who subscribe to the value of such qualities. The glorious past sustains the present: a recent authoritative survey indicated (if I may be allowed to dignify myself with the association) that its law faculty is the best such research department in Europe, while a junior lectureship in Cambridge is more sought after than a professional chair in a polytechnic.

This can sometimes be damaging. The Cambridge Union Society is so obsessed with its historic role as the stomping ground of

future politicians and statesmen as to be paralysed. It is in the perennial grip of a Tory clique far too concerned with the furtherance of their own cares through their involvement and real student debating is almost dead there. More often the effect of the cult of tradition on its adherents is merely curious. Religion, of a ritualistic High Anglican sort, is very fashionable here. I use the term advisedly — for a certain element in the University, religious practice, to the sound of the superb college choirs and with a whiff of incense in the air, seems to be merely a reassertion of distinction, so alien is it now to the mass of the population of England. It appeals, unlike conventional religious devotion, precisely because it is traditionalist and uncommon. Such perceptions of the value of tradition are stultifying and useless.

I hope some picture of the ethos of Cambridge emerges, though I will admit it must be a confused one — of tradition both pervasive and inperceptible, of a place both special and ordinary. There exists here a tension between the new and the old, the real and the mythical, between the forces resisting change and the bureaucratic levellers of modern life. The result is a happy compromise. Cistercian alumnus can be a member of a college (Sidney Sussex) whose proudest boast is to have been the Alma Mater of Oliver Cromwell. Commonwealth students flock here to be educated in a university which was once a factory of empire-builders. Behind the Gothic stone façades of the college are to be found laboratories and computer rooms. Students eat in ancient halls, and sleep in medieval quarters, and their heads are filled with quantum physics, sociology and business studies as well as classics and the old literal humaniores. The men who discovered DNA don long black gowns to teach. Every venerable old institution must adjust to modern demands to survive — if I may end on a happy note, I must conclude that Cambridge has been able not only to survive, but to thrive, with its charm and its most pleasing customs intact. It is an enjoyable and rewarding privilege to be here.

Anthony Whelan
25 iii MCMXC

(Anthony Whelan (C.C.R. 1980 - '85) is presently, an Evan Lewis-Thomas Scholar at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and is reading for an L.L.M.)



(NEWS OF PAST STUDENTS)

Tim O'Colmain (1976) Abbeynockmoy, Co. Galway and Kathy Roche, Dublin are engaged. They plan to get married this summer.

EUROPE

A brief immersion in the "European Village" puts the time and travel realities of the 1990s into an interesting perspective. Watching a rural Irish MEP hunkering down with his counterpart from a remote Greek island to reach a common position on milk and wine, watching a young Kerry-born official in earnest discussion in the restaurant with an Italian counterpart, I mentally compared their working world with that of their grandfathers and fathers.

I thought of my own grandfather, a national teacher in West Cork. He left Beara twice in his life, once to go to Dublin for his training, again to grow old and die with his now translated family. Once too, in old age, he went to London to visit my uncle who had set up in medical practice. He stood at the corner of the Strand, viewing the throng and turned to my uncle; "Do you mean to tell me Joe there's this many Protestants in the world?". But outside of these excursions he lived his life among other West Cork people.

Those from across the mountains in Kerry were foreigners. He had less in common with Dubliners than with New Yorkers — for he had a lot of neighbours and family there.

My own father got to travel a bit more. He was a garda superintendent so he got to live in different parts of Ireland. He went to Paris with my mother for their honeymoon in 1931 and they went to London on and off in later years. But continental Europe was as remote as the Moon. One night there was a telephone call from a police station in Germany asking that a message be passed to an engineer working locally with Bórd ba Móna. His mother had died in Hamburg. The novelty of communication with Germany lasted for months and was spoken of frequently.

My elder sister went to work in Dublin. Depending on her social and romantic life

she came home every second or third weekend. She began to take holidays in Europe. Cards came from exotic places like Tossa de Mar, Vorlarberg, Nice. It was still Courtown and Youghal for the younger brother however! Then my younger sister married a Hungarian with a German mother living in London. The family view of the world began to change.

I expect it has been the same — or similar — for many Irish individuals and families over the past couple of decades. Is there anything very much more novel for the Strasbourg Irish, working alongside Danes and Greeks and Germans, than there was for my grandfather finding himself in teacher training along with Kerry men, Dubliners and Mayo men? Is there anything more remarkable in the nightly flights back from Brussels, filled with civil servants and officials, than there was in the weekend trains of 20 years ago from Dublin, carrying Dublin workers home to Mullingar and Kilkenny and Tullamore and everywhere else?

Once a month, when the European Parliament meets at Strasbourg, an Air France jet flies north to Copenhagen to collect Denmark's MEPs, their official and other visitors. Taking off from Kastrup airport near Copenhagen, it heads east to Dublin and takes the Irish delegation on board. Thence it heads eastward to London for the last stop, collecting British MEPs, before the final halt in the lovely city on the Rhine where the Parliament is sited.

I travelled on the "Strasbourg Special" last month. It is a remarkable experience, bringing into the sharpest focus the reality of the new, emerging Europe; a Europe without frontiers with a common purpose for its members and with a realisation that its many faces have much more in common than they have differences.

Connaught/Ulster's Mark Killilien sits in earnest discussion with some British MEPs comparing the devastating effects of the winter storms on their respective home areas. Barry Desmond is exploring regional policy with a newspaperman. Later, around the Hemicycle the concourse outside the Parliament Chamber, Ian Paisley is busy explaining a difficult point on the order of business to a Portuguese MEP. A little way off France's Simone Vell is talking to a group of women MEPs, a German, an Italian and a Greek.

The Hemicycle has been described as the "European Village". Walk through it and you will hear a dozen languages and accents. You will quickly learn to discern the national groups; the dark, olive-skinned Italians, the noisy French, the earnest and overweight Germans, the guttural Flemings, the sombre Danes and the Irish? The Irish are everywhere and they are — with one or two notable exceptions — extraordinarily hardworking. They are popular and much liked as both MEPs and officials. They take their Europe seriously. They are less concerned with national prestige than the big players. They are not seen as a threat and they have proven qualities of industriousness and ambition — some compensations here for representing a small nation.

Watching the Parliament at work — and I do not merely mean the actual proceedings in the Chamber — but the whole hubbub of activity — one is struck by the very familiarity between people who have grown up in what we have been conditioned to regard as very different cultures. They view each other not as foreigners and strangers but as part of a wider commonwealth of humanity. It would be an excellent thing if every school child in Europe were to spend half a day or even half an hour in the public gallery.

Conor Brady

National Weekend

For the sixth year running, the annual weekend in the Park Hotel in Kenmare was blessed with perfect weather allowing the capacity group of pastmen, wives and friends to enjoy the break to its fullest.

As usual, large numbers were turned away. Practically as many were disappointed as attended, so anyone who intends to participate next November must really waste no time in booking.

Most arrived on Friday afternoon in plenty of time to change for dinner and set the elegant tone which has been established here over the past couple of years. When I report that the Spooners and Meehans were there as usual you will grasp immediately what I mean. Whether its on the golf course, in the dining room or whirling round the dancefloor, apart from the Dwans and Comerfords, there are few to come near them.

The golf competition continues to attract a large number of competitors, thanks, in the main, to the creative and administrative genius of the redoubtable Pat O'Shea whose baby it has become in recent years. The fear has been expressed that if Pat found he

couldn't make it to Kenmare that the sporting activities would be dealt a body blow from which it is doubtful if we could recover. However, as long as the Park's cuisine comes up to his expectations, we're hopeful that he and Margaret will continue to grace the weekend with their presence.

Because a Sunday is involved it has been the wish of all that a chaplain should be an integral part of our few days and we have been fortunate enough to have had the presence of our own Fr. Dermot each year. Despite many personal inconveniences and the distance involved, we have always managed to persuade him to come and the final communal act of every weekend is his Mass in the hotel lounge on the Sunday morning.

We have booked the hotel for a week earlier than usual this year, so make a note of the date: November 2nd - 4th.

Bookings to:
Mr. Francis Brennan,
Park Hotel,
Kenmare,
Co. Kerry.
Tel: (064) 41200



Denis Crowley, Frank Lynch, Jack Fitzpatrick
All Past Presidents at the Diamond Jubilee Dinner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sports and Parents' Day: May 20th.
Students Summer Holidays: June 1st.
Examinations commence: June 6th.
Students return: September 3rd & 4th.
Union Weekend — Abbot's Cup 22nd; AGM & Union Mass etc. 23rd September.
South Tipperary Dinner Dance: late October.
Kenmare Weekend Away: 2nd, 3rd, 4th November.
Dublin Dinner: November 9th (Friday).



1959 CLASS REUNION

Back row. L. to R. Dan Ryan, Michael Houlihan, Gerry Slattery, Paddy Coffey, Jeremy Hennessy, Michael Byrne, John Kenny, Brian McMahon, Donal O'Connor, Andy Galvin.

Second row. Conor Massey, Brendan Smyth, Rory O'Shea, Tom Maher, Hugh Curley, Kevin Garvey, Gerard Beresford, Tony Mitchell, Tom Roche, Denis O'Sullivan, Brian Monks, Tom Collins.

Front row. Fr. Dermot McCarthy, John Williams, Fr. Ciaran, Dr. Philip Murray, Abbot Colmille, Fr. Kevin, Donal Chambers, Fr. Anthony, John Shanahan, Fr. Edmond Dobson, Fr. Raymond Pelly.

The Dublin Dinner

The popularity of the Dublin Dinner continues apace, resulting in one fear being realised last November: five more than could be accommodated turned up on the night of the United Service Club in St. Stephen's Green. Undaunted, Oliver Byrne had a brief word with the management and had the whole thing sorted out in true Kilkenny fashion.

On this occasion we had Fr. Kevin representing the school, our Union President, Sean Murphy and the Director of Public Presentations, Mr. Eamon Barnes, as our guest speaker. These distinguished people were flanked by the Union Presidents of Terenure, St. Mary's, Clongowes, C.U.S., King's Hospital, St. Michael's and Pres. Bray. Apart from the senior figures of the Union like Fr. Kevin and Sean, youth was represented stylishly on the speaker's podium by Donal Taaffe, while Conor O'Hara and Conor Massey played supporting roles.

Just before we assembled, the tragic news of Phil Carroll's death reached us and cast a pall over the proceedings. The Chairman paid tribute to her incomparable commitment to the boys of Roscrea and the joy she brought to so many lives. He said he knew he was speaking for the entire Union when he extended his sincere sympathy to Pat and their young family. The packed room then stood in silent tribute to Phil's memory.

Kieran Fitzgerald arranged a mini 1979 class reunion and concentrated on quality rather than quantity by roping in Dermot Ryan, Maurice Mellotte, Pádraic O'Máille, Gerard O'Rourke, David Tarpey and Declan O'Dea from the wild and woolly, with Jack Kennedy and Brendan Phelan adding the touch of urbanity.

Among the attending loyal stalwarts of the Dublin branch there was, as usual, the impeccable Larry Brannigan, the omniscient Matt Hyland, the affable Colm Irwin with the

infallible John in the offing, the inimitable Noel Windle and many others who were pointed out with pride to newcomers.

The only disappointment was the unexpected and inexplicable absence of Tom Collins.

GALWAY/SLIGO/MAYO FUNCTION

On Friday, April 27th this western Branch held a most enjoyable Dinner Dance at the Ardilaun Hotel, Taylors Hill, Galway. This is the President's branch, so the Committee, under the Chairmanship of John Sherry put on a very good show. John's speech after the meal was one of the best we have heard for many a day.

In his address the President, Dr. Sean Murphy, congratulated the Branch on its steady progress and the excellent attendance tonight. He was especially pleased to see so many young members present, it gave promise of a healthy future. The parents of present students of CCR were very welcome and he hoped they would continue their patronage.

Fr. Dermot, the General Secretary, also spoke. He thanked John Sherry and his Committee for having him as their guest. He said the Union was most grateful to the men of the West for producing and paying for the last issue of the Roscrea Review. Great credit was due to Michael Keohane for all the work he put into it. Tonight's gathering, he said was a witness to the strength and loyalty of this Western Branch. After the Dinner the band struck up, and the company danced until the early hours of the morning, the ladies adding colour and charm to the occasion. It was a great night.

Among those present was Pat Brophy of Killimor, Hugh and Michael Curley from Ballyhaunis, Dr. Joe Daly of Ballygar, Seamus Sherry - a Past President of the Union and father of John the host for the occasion - came from his lakeside retreat in Tavnaghmore, and Michael Keohane from Easky on

the shores of Sligo Bay, and from near at hand came Denis Molloy of Ballina. From Ballinasloe came Noel Kinirons and Donal Twohig and the Tarpeys came in from Ardrahan. The men from the city were there - key men of the Branch - Gerry Meehan and Pádraic O'Máille, strongly supported by the brothers Dermot and Cormack Ryan. Dermot organized a reunion of his '79 class at the Dublin Dinner last November. And the Dublin Branch was well represented by Conor and Ayne Massey, Noel Windle and Joan. There were Cyril and Monica Hackett from the Midlands; Aidan Spooner, John and Brid Littleton from Limerick/Clare. Gene Claffey was prefect at a table of ten students. They were only a few of the many who made it a night worth remembering.

The West is indeed wide awake!

CENTRAL COMMITTEE AFFAIRS

The management and general business of the Union is conducted by the Central Committee. This body meets in the College four times a year. The normal membership consists of the President of the Union, the Past President, the President Elect for one year before he takes office, the Chairman of each Branch of the Union (at present there are eight Branches), the Branch Hon. Secretaries, the two Hon. General Treasurers, the President of the College and the Rev. General Secretary.

The Committee nominates and elects the President of the Union, and new members. It fixes the current membership fees and changes them according to circumstances with the approval of the AGM. Twenty pounds is the Life Membership fee at present. Established members help greatly in defraying Union expenses by their voluntary subscriptions. Some do this on a regular basis. Acknowledgement will be made in the Roscrea Review (unless otherwise directed).

The Review is the Union's biggest and main expense. It is the life line of the Union and a copy of each issue goes out to every Member of the Union wherever he may be - assuming that we have his correct address. If you meet some past student who says he has paid his fees and never hears from the Union, please let us know and we will redress the matter. There are two issues in the year and it costs about £2,000 to publish and post. The Editor always welcomes news and articles for publication. The Dublin Branch assembled and edited this issue, for which the committee is most grateful.

Annual Union Day is organized by the Central Committee - This year it is on Sunday 23rd September. The Union High Mass is in the Abbey Church at 11.00 a.m. and the AGM at 2.00 p.m. The Golf Championship for the Abbot's Cup is on Saturday 22nd September at the Roscrea Golf Club. This is run by the North Tipperary Branch of the Union - Gerard Maher is the present Chairman. The Past V Present matches are on Sunday 23rd and are organized by the College.

The Central Committee is also responsible for the "Weekend Away" held at the Park Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. This year it is from 2nd to 4th November. You have to book very early to get in on this - do it now, and send your deposit direct to the Hotel.

Please address all communications to:
The General Secretary,
Cistercian College Union,
Mount St. Joseph Abbey.

FROM THE UNION PRESIDENT



As my term of office as Union President draws to a close, I am grateful of the opportunity to express some of my feelings and thanks, to the many Pastmen, who have contributed so much towards myself and the Union, during the two years. My initial thanks to the Central Committee, for their faith and trust in bestowing the honour of President on me. It has been a singularly unique and rewarding experience, and deeply appreciated, reflected now by an air of sadness to a certain degree, as the end of the office approaches, which I am sure all previous Presidents have also experienced.

Generally speaking, I am happy to relate that The Union is probably in its strongest position ever. Not, I hasten to add, because of my personal input but rather the just rewards of the recent Presidents, their Central Committees and of course the support of you yourselves, the Pastmen. The keyword is commitment, and we are fortunate that Fr. Dermot possesses this in large quantities. As our General Secretary, I have seen over the last seven years, the enormous amount of work and research he does, in ensuring that the business and social aspects of the Union are kept running in a highly professional way. To Fr. Dermot I attribute the major honours for our Union's increasing success, and I thank him for his tremendous personal help and support during my term of office.

Pride of place in the highlights of my office, has to go to the Diamond Jubilee Dinner in the Gresham Hotel on December 16th, 1989. A nostalgic and historic occasion, celebrated in elegance and solemnity, the memory of which will remain forever with all who att-

ended. The Kenmare week-end away was again an unqualified success, and its future seems assured, as reflected in the long waiting list hoping for a cancellation last year.

At the Branch level, there have been very positive developments in the last year. The London Branch have re-organised, under the guidance of John Yurky, Michael McCormack, Joe Hayes and others, and are now meeting on a regular basis. They had their first function on January 19th, 1990, the most notable feature of which, was the obvious delight in the Pastmen to be meeting again, and their enthusiasm and determination to continue and go on to greater events. Conor Massey, Noel Windle, Pat O'Shea, Jim Egan, and myself travelled over to the function and were delighted with the reception we were afforded, and assured the Branch of the Union's fullest support in the future.

On the home front, the South East Branch returned to its former glory with an excellent function in New Ross, under the Chairmanship of Billy Murphy. Limerick-Clare, dormant for so long, are now re-organising under the guidance of Michael Houlihan, and expect to hold a function on May 12th in Clare. Galway-Mayo-Sligo have their Dinner Dance scheduled for April 27th, and it is expected that the South West will have their function towards the end of May. The Dublin, Midland, North Tipp, and South Tipp, have all run excellent functions already. Extra credit is due to Gerry Maher and the North Tipp Branch who also run the Abbott's Cup Golf Championship each year.

We now have the happy situation of all Branches holding functions this year. My thanks and congratulations to all concerned for achieving this, and I trust you will continue, and enjoy doing this for many years to come. It has been a great pleasure attending these functions, and my sincere thanks for the tremendous hospitality afforded to Noreen and myself at all times.

On the College front, I would like to congratulate Liam Maher for producing the excellent edition of *An Fíolar*, celebrating Dom Colmille O'Toole's Silver Jubilee as Lord Abbot. There are still plenty of copies available from Fr. Kevin, or through your Branches, and it really is of immense value and interest to Pastmen, so please get one if you have not already done so.

Congratulations to Fr. Kevin and the staff for the exceptional results achieved in last year's Leaving Certificate. My personal thanks to him for his tremendous help and input to the Union and myself.

Finally, to my successor, Conor Massey, I extend my congratulations and well wishes. His contribution to the Union at all levels has been tremendous over many years, and it has always been a priority in his very busy schedule. We are fortunate indeed to have a Pastman of his calibre and qualities as President, and I trust Anya and himself will enjoy the two years as much as I have mine.

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!! CONSIDER THE CHANGES WE HAVE WITNESSED:

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, lazer beams and ball point pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes; and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and THEN lived together. How quaint and different can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the local Theater.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day-care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness . . . not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant JUNK and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your latest exam. Pizzas, "MacDonalds" and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Sanders and Wilsons sold Ice

Cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupé for \$600, but who could AFFORD one, a pity too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in, Rock Music was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principle office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

BUT WE SURVIVED!! WHAT BETTER REASONS ARE THERE TO CELEBRATE?

LONDON BRANCH

On January 19th, the eve of the rugby international at Twickenham, the London Branch gathered together a representative group of about fifty Roscrea men and supporters for a function in the Irish Club in Eton Square. Although one was conscious of the absence of the much-loved and late-lamented Paddy Moriarty who had given so much to the branch over many years, it was very gratifying to see such a good turn-out of pastmen. Obviously, the sterling work of John Yurky, Michael McCormack, Paul Foley and company is bearing fruit.

The presence of Vincent Sherry brought pleasure to many old friends and Simon Ryan of the youthful looks and vigour was ubiquitous. Joe Hayes took time off from his deliberations with Whitehall to grace the occasion and Fr. Eamon Magrath made sure that propriety was sustained. Pat O'Shea had travelled from Milkenny and his son Joe took time off from pursuing his successful career with I.C.I. to join him. The semi-resident, Jim Egan, lent his sophistication to the evening and later, in the company of Noel Windle and Conor Massey who had also travelled over, he listened to the philosophical outpourings of Tim O'Dwyer who had come down from Birmingham. John McNamara had every appearance of having settled contentedly in London and the renowned twinkle in his eyes was undiminished.



*Taken in the monastery Refectory, at the Abbot's Silver Jubilee.
Fr. Sean, Sr. Anthony, Dom Colmcille, Sr. Rita.*

The most important person there, of course, was our Union President, Sean Murphy, who spoke of his delight that London was back on the Union map. He assured them of the support of the home Union and his own personal commitment to them. He spoke on behalf of all the visitors when he expressed his appreciation for the input of the London committee and wished them continuing success.

The following is an apt excerpt from Dom Benedict's speech at the launching of 'An Fiolar'.

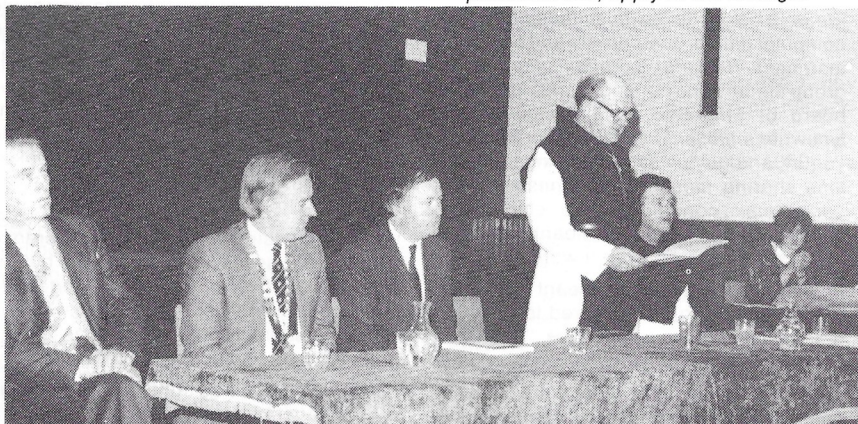
"In this school down the years from 1905 when its doors were opened, the monks on the staff, even in the stricter periods of monastic seclusion, always had a desire to keep in touch with their past-students, and this seems to have been reciprocated from the start. And it was a matter of regret to the school authorities whenever they didn't succeed in keeping the lines of communication open with some past student or other.

On the other hand, the past-students maintained a lively interest in the college, in its activities, its values and traditions.

Now, every issue of AN FIOLAR helps to promote and enkindle anew this special brand of loyalty, this mutual bond between the college and its alumni.

This present issue of AN FIOLAR is also outstanding from this standpoint and in many other ways. It keeps the past students in direct touch with their school of which they are genuinely proud; it sparks off fresh enthusiasm for interaction and discussion and frank evaluation; and here and there it definitively records for posterity, sayings and events connected with the college, which hence-forth become ingredients of the love of its traditions."

There are still some copies left if you wish to purchase one; apply to the College.



LAUNCHING 'AN FIOLAR'

L. to R.: Liam Maher, Editor; Dr. Sean Murphy, Union President; Conor Brady, Editor Irish Times; Dom Benedict Kearns, Abbot of Bolton Abbey, Moone; Fr. Kevin, President of the College

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SR. RITA.

Generations of students over the past 50 years remember Sr. Rita with affection and gratitude, and they each have a special place in her memory. Those members of the Union who serve on the Central Committee are familiar with the gentle knock on the door of No. 7 just when the Meeting is getting tedious, and the welcome cup of tea served by Sr. Rita. She never forgets, God bless her!

A native of west Cork, Sr. Rita joined the Sisters of St. Marie Madeleine Postel in 1937 and made her noviciate in France. When war came she was in Normandy under German occupation, and later lived through the Allied landings. In the '50s she was transferred to England, and in 1958 joined the College staff, where she and her collaborator Sr. Anthony manage the culinary and housekeeping affairs of the house. Fifty golden years in the service of God is a long time, especially when over thirty of them have been worked out in CCR. Thank you Sr. Rita.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Contributions to the Union have been received from the following:

Peter O'Gorman, Carlow.
Fr. Fintan Keegan, San Francisco.
James McGuinness, Tullamore.
Joe Doyle, Dublin.
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Christopher Carroll, Dublin.
Patrick Herlihy, South Africa.
Michael McDonagh, Glos., England.
Fr. Eamonn Magrath, Essex, England.
Dr. Michael Fallon, Scotland.
Joe Murphy, Limerick.
Noel Kilmartin, Galway.
Peter Logan, Mohill.
Fr. Eddie Sherry, Australia.
Dr. Cuimin Doyle, Cork.
Ray Molloy, Kilkenny.
James Harding & Brothers, Gowran.
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Dr. Ailbe O'Meara, Dublin.
John O'Shea, Croydon, England.
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Vivian Lavan, Dublin.