

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 58

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Spring 1992

Letter from the President



On May 17th next, Michael Keohane will take over as President of the Union and I will join that special group of "Past-Presidents who have been the trend setters of the Union in their time and given of their best" (quotes inserted by the Editor) - Seán Murphy, Tom Ambrose, Kevin Dwan et al. I have enjoyed unsurpassable hospitality and friendship throughout the country and have been enriched by getting to know so many of our pastmen, their wives and families. I realise fully now why our Union is considered the strongest in the country. C.C.R. is like a magnet to so many as was evident during the marvellous run in the

Leinster Cup by our senior rugby team. The support by pastmen was a revelation to anyone who doubted the unbreakable bond that exists with the school. Tom Hogan, Matt Hyland, Gerry Bates, Ailbe O'Meara and Liam Byrne represented a generation three steps back from the present student body and they, along with others of varying vintage, were as vociferous and passionate in their support as were the legion of "boys from Roscrea" as the students described themselves in their chant. In fact, the sense of belonging to C.C.R. was as strong among pastmen as it was with the current pupils. I was proud to be President of such a movement of good-will, tradition and fellowship, and I will miss the intimate involvement with the school and all the branches when I step down at our next A.G.M.

For various reasons, some branches have been more active than others over the past two years. Some have been as vibrant as Fr. Dermot could wish while others have been marking time, gathering their strength, one trusts, for a significant effort in the near future. Some of our stalwards, who thought they could take a well-earned rest, have discovered that they are indispensable and are creaking back into action. A rejuvenated Union will be the result.

There are now four golf competitions in the Union calendar: the Abbot's Cup in the Roscrea Golf Club, run so well by the North Tipperary Branch, the Kenmare Weekend Away competition, the Matt Hyland Perpetual Trophy in Dublin, and the latest event - The Mount Juliet Classic, inaugurated this Spring by the wizards of the South East. This is an activity which seems to be ideally suited to the reunion of

pastmen and might be considered by other branches. It appears to offer the surest prospect of success and is a relatively easy sell. A little effort can produce a worthwhile return.

As I leave the Presidency of our Union, I do so with a sense of optimism coupled with a little sadness as I cast one last, longing, lingering look behind. I have enjoyed my term so much and yet feel that I should have achieved more. What is the state of the Union as I depart? In some areas it is thriving; in others, just ticking over. The task awaiting Michael is a big one. I realise that one man cannot achieve everything on his own, so I offer my continuing commitment to him in whatever direction he may choose to steer.

I know each retiring President says a big "thank you" to Fr. Dermot. There is a danger that this can be perceived as a mere form. I can assure you that the debt I as President, and I'm sure all past incumbents, feel towards his is truly immense. He is the cornerstone of our Union with an affection for it that is unparalleled and a dedication that is exemplary. May he live till he is a hundred!

Fr. Kevin has always kept a warm welcome for pastmen. His interest in the Union is unfailing and his generosity of spirit can be completely depended upon and we are enormously indebted to him.

Finally, I wish Michael every success; I wish him the enjoyment that I have been privileged to have, and I hope that he may look back on his term of office with the same fondness with which I can undoubtedly do.

Conor Massey

THE DUBLIN DINNER NOVEMBER '91

This is the most consistent and popular event on the whole Union calendar. The traditional date is the first Friday in November, but the Committee bow to some greater need and alter the date slightly. But, they will let you know in good time if this happens . . . very business-like this Dublin Committee!

The Dinner event is held in the United Service Club in St. Stephens Green. Their Guest List is a banner head of correct procedure, it included ten Presidents of kindred Unions from in and around the city. The guest speaker was Dr. Al. Maroney, of whom the Chairman, Aidan McNulty said in

his introductory speech, "We are honoured to welcome a distinguished C.U.S. man, an international rugby player who laid the foundations in the 60s of the great Irish performances which led ultimately to the Triple Crown victories and the World Cup standards of today". Fr. Kevin Daly, President of the College and some of the lay teachers were present. In his reply to the toast to the College Fr. Kevin said he greatly admired the work being done by the Dublin Branch; he congratulated the Chairman and his Committee on their undertakings and their concern for the welfare of the younger members of the Union. He assured the company that the

spirit and traditions of Roscrea were safe in the hands of the new Board of Governors, and the future looked good.

Fr. Dermot McCarthy, the new Director of Religious programmes on R.T.E. proposed the toast to the Guests in a fluent and witty speech.

Conor Massey, President of the Union, proposed the toast of the Dublin Branch and in his speech threw out the suggestion that perhaps we could learn something from the Castleknock custom of having the ladies to the Dinner. In the pregnant pause that followed, 100 stalward stags sat in shocked silence.

It was a great night.

Kenmare 1991

For the first time in seven years we were "rained out" at the Park Hotel. Even the hotel staff found it hard to credit, because "the sun always shone for the Roscrea weekend". Undaunted, the golfing enthusiasts retreated early on Saturday morning to Parknasilla, but it rained there too. They played nevertheless. Some took to the roads in cars that afternoon and headed for Castletownbere, Sneem or the Sheen Falls Hotel on the other side of the bay from the Park Hotel. It is splendid in every way, and in a magnificent setting. Gerard Bates said it would make an ideal site for a monastery. But what would the monks DO all day, with all that falling water - weep for the sins of the world? Some of the younger generation got into rain-gear and headed for the many shops in the town and the ladies indulged in an unexpected, glorious spending spree. Others just went out walking in the rain, as the old song says, and enjoyed themselves immensely, coming back later rosy and refreshed, to scoff at the "layabouts" who stayed at home around the cheerful open fires, relaxing and soaking in the ambience of the hotel. It was one man's idea of heaven, "lounging in luxury, enjoying good company, and looking out at the rain, pelting down against that magnificent back-drop". There seems to have been something for everybody. The past-men were from all generations since the 1930s. Ger Bates and Seamus O'Brien represented the early and late 30s; Noel McCarthy - all the way from New Haven - and Tom Hastings straddled the 40s and 50s; Larry Branigan, Conor O'Hara and Pat O'Shea filled in for the rest of that decade, while the President Conor Massey and his future successor in office, Michael Keohane come on at the end; there was a strong representation from the 60s,



Fr. Denis leads the sing along

UNION TIES.

Supplies of the ordinary ties are available from the Chairman of the Dublin Branch (at present Simon Coyle) or the General Secretary, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. The dickie bows are all sold out! Sorry.

Michael, of the Ballinamore McCarthys', and William, of the Cullohill O'Connells', John Comerford, Joseph Chambers and Denis Molloy who crossed into the 70s; we nearly missed mention of Donal the eldest of the Chambers brothers who captained the College at the end of the 50s; and the up and coming generation of the late 70s was fittingly represented by Henry Windle. Henry has since become engaged to Janette Tyrrell.

It has been said that wherever there are three or four Roscrea men gathered together Noel Windle will be there in the midst of them. This is very true of Kenmare, for Noel has been a regular patron from the beginning.

A new feature was introduced last year. After the Banquet, the prize giving, and the "cupla focal" by the President and his men, a local Seanachuide entertained the company with "Scealta agus crack". He was good, and the crowd were reluctant to part with him.

Later on there was a lady pianist who played soothing background music and accompanied the "sing along" organized by Fr. Denis Foley and Co. Fr. Denis displayed great skill as a compère uncovering vast musical resources among the ladies as well as their men.

We had our own pianists who took over after the professionals tired, and played solos and accompaniments into the early hours of the morning. Gerry Breen and Conor Massey were marvellous and they seemed to have an endless repertoire. We had a very talented group of ladies Una O'Connell, Helen Comerford and Nance McCarthy served up a feast of musical gems.

It was all voted a marvellous night, well worth repeating next year.

BOOK EARLY AND BE SURE OF A PLACE

The National Weekend Away 1992 at the Park Hotel Kenmare has been fixed for Friday 30th October, Saturday 31st October ending Sunday 1st November. Make your bookings direct to:-
Mr. Francis Brennan,
Park Hotel,
Kenmare, Co. Kerry.
Phone: 064/41200. Fax: 064/41402
Telex: 73905.



Gerard Breen



President addresses South West Branch



Cash in Cork



Donal Brennan, Kildare; Michael Garvey, Japan; George Sinnott, Luxembourg.



Ennis Dinner; John Houlihan, Joe O'Connor & Johnson Family

THE CLASS OF 1965 - '70

Seated: Jim Glennon, Mr. John Shanahan, Mr. Rody Ryan, Fr. Eanna, Tony Collier, Fr. Abbot, Michael Garvey, Gerard Flood, Aidan O'Connell.

1st Row: Frank Gleeson, Patrick McGovern, Patrick Loughnane, Frank Fitzpatrick, Donal Brennan, Gerard O'Meara, Charles Cavanagh, James Loughnane, Fr. Ciaran.

2nd Row: Peter Madden, Paul O'Meara, Con. O'Flynn, John Nicholl, Pat Kelly, George Sinnott, Tom Kelly, Peter Quigley, Philip Tierney.

3rd Row: Fr. Peter, John O'Connor, Joseph Geaney, Frank Greene, Fr. Gabriel, Michael McNamara, Edmond Hayes, Matthew O'Donovan, Fr. Kevin.



THE END OF AN ERA

After 41 years of dedicated service the Sisters of the Christian Schools are leaving the College in June 1992. They came to the College at the invitation of Fr. Thomas O'Leary in 1951 and in the intervening years have been the heart of what the College means, as well as doing trojan work at the service of the students. The first sisters to come in 1951 were Sisters Declan (1951-'54), Philomena (1951-'66), and Bernadette (1951-'56) and respectively they looked after the Catering, Nursing and Housekeeping departments of the College. Sr. Bernard (1955-'58) then took over the catering and Sr. Benilde (1956-'70) supervised a period of tremendous improvisation and improvement in the catering area.

Sr. Rita came to the College in 1958 and has been Housekeeper since then, and Sr. Anthony came in 1966 and has been Nurse and Catering supervisor until now. Between them they have given 60 years service to the students and it is no exaggeration to say that when they leave us this summer, the College will never be quite the same again. It is difficult to define precisely their contribution to the College. Superceeding all other impressions was their extraordinary fidelity as women of God and of prayer. It was all very natural and unpretentious, but nothing could be clearer than that their morning Mass in the College Chapel, infirmary oratory or Abbey Church was the centre of their day - and their greatest pleasure with the boys was to touch the growth of faith and love in their young hearts.

During most of their years, the Sisters were, with Miss Frankie Bergin, the only women in the College. While the importance of this fact was largely hidden from themselves, the feminine interaction and impact on the students and indeed on the monks and staff was incalculable. When for example, Sr. Rita travelled to support a debating team in a bus, there was a completely different buzz in that bus, and the boys felt so proud of the fact that she was with them, and understood the intricacies and skills of competitive debating so well. The patent enthusiasm she showed towards their efforts - not to speak of her unbridled partiality - endeared

her to them in an exceptional way. Likewise Sr. Anthony's care for the sick boys, especially when a boy was sick on his own in the infirmary, created bonds which lasted right through the school.

Their respective working days - Sr. Anthony in the Infirmary and Kitchen, and Sr. Rita around the school, in the Chapel and in the sewing room - were long and laborious. They were carried out 24 hours a day seven days every week during the whole year, apart from a holiday in summer. That they carried it out for so long represents an extraordinary dedication and fidelity.; Yet one always felt that they enjoyed it, that they gave themselves generously, but also cheerfully, and that nothing was ever too much trouble.

Alongside their service to the boys, the Sisters built up a close relationship with the monastic community which constitutes one of the great supports of the Community

during the past 50 years.

The nuns received in their home in the College most of the important visitors to the Abbey; they took an interest in every monk and in all the happenings of the Abbey; their wise counsel was always available to the Abbot and the President, and above all they loved and cared for Mount Saint Joseph Abbey in a way that even the monks themselves could not emulate.

When this summer, they move to their new home in Knock, Co. Mayo, they will bring with them the love and grateful memories of generations of past students, the respect and esteem of hundreds who have worked with them in the College, and the undying affection and prayer of the monastic community they served so well.

Ni bheidh a leitheid aris ann.

Fr. Peter Garvey, O.Cist.



Fr. Sean, Sr. Anthony, Fr. Abbot, Sr. Rita

WHAT SOME SAID IN THE PAPERS

A summary of a quarter page article which appeared in the Irish Times, 18th Oct. 1991.

In England the power to pardon is vested in the Secretary of State for Home affairs. It is however limited in scope: the granting of a free pardon removes "all penalties and punishments" of the conviction but it does not eliminate the conviction itself!

The Irish pardon is a more comprehensive and just power, since it enables the stigma of guilt to be removed where an innocent person has been the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

In Ireland, the provisions of the Constitution vest in the President the right of pardon and the power to commute and remit punishment imposed by any court exercising criminal jurisdiction. The power of the President can only be exercised on the advice of the Government.

However, the greatest defect in our pardoning power would seem to be our failure to utilise it. Perhaps the Nicky Kelly case could jolt this remedy back into use as a valid mechanism for dealing with the injustice which the criminal process can sometimes inflict.

Barry Finlay, CCR 1975 - '78.

B.C.L. (UCC) 1980 - '83.

B.L. (Kings Inns) 1986.

L.L.M. (LSE) 1987.

Doctoral Research Student,

(London School of Economics) 1988 - '92.

SYNOPSIS OF A HALF PAGE ARTICLE
BY PROFESSOR O'GARA.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology will play a huge role in a broad range of industries in the future. To prepare for this, the microbiology department of UCC will play a major part in equipping EC biotechnology industries.

The BIOMERIT Programme (initiated by Professor Fergal O'Gara) will co-ordinate the activities of 30 European Universities in 7 EC countries. This will provide Irish graduates with the opportunity to gain hands on experience in the various industries involved in the programme.

Thus UCC, for example, can offer graduates from other countries its expertise in molecular biology, genetic engineering, biosensors etc. The basic idea is that universities will work together as a transnational team so as to ensure common objectives.

All industries involved with biotechnology can apply to join BIOMERIT - the major dairy and other food processors are already involved. A training workshop in aspects of molecular biology is planned for April 1992.

Professor Fergal O'Gara
CCR 1962 - 1967

SYNOPSIS OF A HALF PAGE ARTICLE
BY NEIL JOHNSON

"LET'S TALK SENSE"

"What is alcohol?"
"How does it affect me?"
"Is it o.k. to get drunk?"
"Do I have a choice . . . ?"

These - and others - are some of the questions asked, and answered, in the first ever alcohol education pack for primary schools launched recently under the title "LET'S TALK SENSE".

The author (Neil Johnson) is convinced that this is the group we must concentrate on - by the time students reach secondary school it is already too late! Our findings are, he said, that by First Year, kids have already had their first drink, many of their opinions and attitudes are formed and at least some think it is okay to get drunk!

Hence, the Education Pack!

The Pack takes a commonsense attitude to alcohol, describing what it is and how it works, in language suitable to 6th class children in primary school. The approach is positive. It assumes that the majority of people do drink, talks of when people may start to drink and shows that the younger you start, the higher your risk level will be.

The sad thing is that it has been left to "a small voluntary group tucked away in a corner of Ireland" to produce this kind of material for primary schools. It points to a massive indictment of our national abuse of alcohol and highlights the lack of official commitment to its prevention.

Neil Johnson
CCR 1974 - 1979

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Tim O'Colmain, Dublin.
Philip Tierney, Kilkenny.
Eddie Tallent, Kilkenny.
John O'Shea, Croydon.



The President & his men

SOUTH TIPPERARY BRANCH

Chairman: Noel McCormack, Main Street, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary. 052/56298.

Vice-Chairman: Jim Doyle, Moyne, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Secretary: Conor Moloney, Clonbanna, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Treasurer: John Purcell, Thurles.

This Branch has arranged a Dinner Dance in the Anner Hotel, Thurles, on Friday 24th April, 1992. Your enthusiastic support is asked.

A.G.M. and Inauguration of the New President of the Union - Michael Keohane, Easky, Co. Sligo - Sunday 17th May.

COLLEGE SPORTS, 17th MAY, 3.00 p.m.
End of School Year, Friday 29th May 1992.
Public Examinations begin 10th June.



ABBOT'S CUP GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP;
Roscrea Golf Club, Saturday 26th September, 1992. Contact Gerard Maher, 0505/47165, or Liam Spooner, 0505/22074; 21063. Dinner 7.30 p.m. Club House.

UNION DAY, UNION MASS IN ABBEY CHURCH, PAST V PRESENT MATCHES, SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 1992.



Fr. Michael O'Sullivan with the White Fathers in Algeria

OBITUARIES

Fr. James Cahalane, 1926 - '29.

Those of us who are still around from those years will remember him as a very likeable companion. Although not a boy with the ten talents in any field, by determination and dedication he perfected anything that came his way. He became a fine 100 yards sprinter. In his last year he was half mile champion. In that year also he got an Inter Pro. cap for Leinster. A rare event in those days. The standard of coaching in Roscrea was not high. Jim was probably the lightest forward on the team. By his skill and speed he must have impressed the selectors. This would be the last thing he would set out to do. He avoided praise. He would have hated this obituary notice. Whenever he did get a score, it was always the other fellow who got the ball, made the break and James just went over the line with it! I can still see his red head coming out of a ruck with the ball in his hands when some of the stolid members would be arriving.

But with this ever keen involvement in sport, he managed to give us the impression that it was very much secondary in his life.

We were not surprised when we heard that he had joined the Vincentian Order after leaving Roscrea. He was ordained in 1935. After ordination he was in the Irish College Paris and got a Licentiate in Philosophy from the Catholic University of Paris. He filled various posts in the Order both in Ireland and England. In 1966 he was appointed Provincial, serving for nine years. At the age of 65, in 1975 he moved to Enugu, Nigeria as spiritual director of the college there. He was appointed superior in 1988 and there he died on 16th December

1991 at the age of 81, having completed 60 years in the Vincentian Order.

Fr. Bernard Kiely O.C.S.O.

Very Rev. George Canon Waring, 1923-'26, Formby Liverpool. One of three brothers who came to CCR from Southport, Lancashire, during and after the First World War. George became best known for his pioneer work for the Apostolate of the Sea.

Fr. Cronan Torpey O.F.M. (Patsy), 1942-'47 was a native of Roscrea. He joined the Franciscans on leaving CCR, did his novitiate in Killarney, was professed in Galway, did his studies in Rome and was ordained there in 1956. He taught in Gormanstown College for some years, served in the houses of his order in Ennis, Galway, Wexford and Limerick where he died in August of last year. May he rest in peace.

John de Loughrey, 1938-'42 a native of Kilkenny, he qualified as a chemist and optician when he left CCR and opened his own business in Nenagh in 1954. His two sons Conor and Dermot finished in CCR in the late '60s and early 70s. John died in February of this year. We offer his wife and family our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Professor Michael Geoghegan, 1932-'37 was a native of Ballinasloe. He spent some of his life in England where he was a staunch member of the London Branch of the Union. Later he returned to Ireland and became Professor of Medical Micro-Biology

in UCD. He lived in Greystones and died there during the year. May he rest in peace.

Hugh Daly, 1954-'59, was one of the House Captains in his final year. He was married with two children and lived in England. He was killed in an accident during the year. His remains were brought back to Kinnitty for burial. May he rest in peace.

John Larkin, 1926-'30, Moneygall, Co. Offaly, died in January 1992. May he rest in peace.

William Coffey, 1923-'30, Toomevara, Co. Tipperary died early this year. May he rest in peace.

Richard Murnane, 1947-'52, came from Clontarf in Dublin where he died in February of this year. May he rest in peace.

Dr. Seamus Harney, 1949-'54 died last Spring in Belfast where he had been working for some time. He was a native of Louisburg, Co. Mayo. May he rest in peace.

Eugene Garvey, 1964 - '69 from Birr died in March of this year after a long illness. He was an architect by profession with offices in Tullamore and Nenagh. For a number of years he was Chairman of the Midland Branch of the Union. Two of his younger brothers, Michael and Seamus, were also in CCR. We offer his wife, Bernadette, and the members of his family our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

NEWS ABOUT PAST STUDENTS

Noel Tierney, 1947-'50, came originally from Castleconnell, Co. Limerick and has lived in Dublin most of his life. Four years ago he took early retirement from Irish Shell and set up his own Public Relations Company, "Tierney Communications". He is also a secret admirer of Parnell and handled the PR and press for the first "Parnell Inter-national Summer School" held at Avondale, Co. Wicklow in August '91.

Dr. Pat Boland, 1956-'61, is a native of Monasterevan, Co. Kildare. In an article entitled "The Best Doctors in New York" he was chosen by a panel of his peers as one of the top fifty orthopaedic specialists in that city. The article appeared in the upmarket magazine "New York". Pat hit the headlines a few years ago in the case of an Irish child in urgent need of a liver transplant. He carried out the successful operation.

Des Hanrahan, 1964-'68, is in the Leasing Department of A.I.B. Rathmines. He is still very keen on Music, and much in demand in Golf Clubs and Socials. He is married and has three boys.

Patrick Hanrahan, 1969-'74, is an accountant and lives in Notts. England. He is married to a Barrister and they have two boys. He is still good at golf, and claims a handicap of 5.

Vincent Booth, 1976-'82, runs a Delicatessen in Portlaoise. He is married

and they have one child.

Pat O'Grady, 1975-'80, from Hospital, Co. Limerick qualified in Computer Science in England. He is getting married this year.

Brendan Hurley, 1968-'71, is in the automobile business in Ocala, Florida. Early this year he and his wife brought their baby daughter home to Cork to be Baptised. They called her Grace Ashling.

David Andrews, 1950 - '54 and his brother Niall '50 - '51 became involved in politics with the Fianna Fail party early in their careers. Eventually both made Dail Eireann. Over recent years David figured prominently in work for Irish political prisoners in English gaols and hostages in the Middle East. The new Taoiseach has appointed him Minister for Foreign Affairs. Niall is an M.E.P.

Brian Cowen, 1972 - '77 is moving fast into the limelight of politics. He was recently appointed Minister of Labour in the new Cabinet.

Other connections that may be of interest; Albert Reynolds' two sons, Philip 1977 - '82 and Albert (Jnr.) 1981 - '86 were past students. Michael Smyth is a brother of Dan who teaches in the College.

Colman McCarthy, 1978 - '82 from Lr. Ahada, Midleton, Co. Cork was married last March to Clodagh O'Riordan in St. Erasmus

Church, Ahada.

Kyran Johnson, 1977 - '81 from Ardagh, Co. Limerick, a Science graduate of UCC, is now married and settled down in Athlone. His wife recently presented him with a fine son.

Neil, brother of the above, recently won the final of the Junior Chamber International World Public Speaking Competition in Helsinki. He was the first Irish contestant to win the top prize.





THE CLASS OF 1966

The moment of truth came when we met in the foyer of the Killeshin Hotel on the Saturday afternoon - perhaps twenty five of us who had assembled to be transported by bus to CCR for our "Class of 1966" reunion. For most of us it was the first time we had seen each other in a quarter of a century. At last sighting we were barely into manhood, the whole long banquet of life stretching ahead. Hardy lads at the time, for the most part, bound in the camaraderie of having completed our time at CCR; geared to go out and take the world by the throat.

The oddest thing in those first few hours on Saturday afternoon was the shyness. Here were the irrepressible wiseguys of 25 years ago, nervously fingering the buttons of their designer blazers or their hands thrust deep in the pockets of their good business suits. Very few of them knew what to say. Some of them didn't actually know each other. I half-expected to have to make introductions! It was to be honest, most difficult. We were glad to be able to make small talk over the arrangements. What time was the bus due? How many were coming altogether? Who was in what room? Who was sharing with whom? The first laughs came on foot of the inevitable refusals to abide by the room list. Recollections of smelly socks and other deficiencies in personal hygiene came thick and fast.

The physical changes ranged from the astonishing to the barely perceptible. But it was not these visible signs that marked the passage of time so much as the personality changes which became apparent as the weekend got under way. A few had hardly changed at all. Some of those whom we regarded 25 years ago as not having a care in the world were now serious, measured, cautious men. Others who were positively introverted had by now emerged as confident, assertive individuals. One thing, it appeared, that doesn't change with time is one's disposition to humour. Those with the ready laugh in 1966 still had it in 1991. Those who couldn't get the joke back then still couldn't get it 25 years later!

The College, by now, has a developed routine for class reunions. And it is a good

one, tried and tested over the years. A welcoming chat in the hall and then the familiar walk to the college chapel for Mass. The Abbot honoured us by acting as chief celebrant and gave a short, warm homily. The years seemed to fly back as we sat in the chapel and when we emerged it could be deduced from the level of conversational buzz that the ice was well and truly breaking.

We posed for photographs and adjourned to what we still refer to as the billiard room for a drinks reception at the invitation of the College. There are many arguments against alcohol, it is true. There is also one good argument in its favour; it lubricates conversation. And two or three glasses of wine later the din of chatter and laughter had filled the room to overflowing.

Dinner was at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise and excellent it was too. We were privileged to have the company of the Abbot, Dom Culmille; the President of the College, Fr. Kevin and two of our old professors - Liam Maher and John Williams. James Phelan who had been House Captain of 1965-66 made a presentation to Fr. Kevin who was also in a sense, celebrating his silver jubilee - for he had come to the College as junior dean in our final year. For him too the night marked the completion of a quarter-century in the College.

We had 53 at dinner - which we think constitutes something of a record. There were messages of goodwill from USA, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia and from Britain, from those of our number who for one good reason or another could not be with us. And before the end of our meal we drank a toast to absent friends - those who had sent us their good wishes, a few we had been unable to trace or persuade to join us and, of course, the late Michael Byrne of Kilkenny who had departed this life the year before. May he rest in peace.

Dinner was merely the prelude to a long night's conversation, with recollections of years gone by, of boyhood escapades, of hopes and fears, of the attainments and disappointments of 25 years past. It would be no exaggeration to observe that an

THE CLASS OF '66

1st Row: John Williams, John Shanahan, Liam Maher, Fr. Emmanuel, Frankie Bergin, Jim Phelan, Fr. Abbot, Hugh Durkin, Chris Bardon, Conor Brady, Eugene McGinnity.

2nd Row: Fr. Kevin, Fergus Owens, Mick Nevin, Michael Healy, Jim Flannigan, Michael Comer, Liam Mulcahy, Peter McGinnity, John Woods, Roddy Ryan, Fr. Ciaran.

3rd Row: Tom Healy, Paul McCarthy, David O'Connor, Brendan McGrath, Brendan Flynn, Eugene Hardiman, Con Foley, Pat Kinsella, John Comerford, Fr. Peter.

4th Row: Fr. Eanna, Tom Joyce, Peter Nugent, Tony Bennett, Jim Bowman, Michael O'Connell, Tom Hope, Ken Ford, Richard Mellott.

5th Row: John Rafferty, Derry Bergin, Bryan O'Donnell, Eddie O'Donovan, Billy O'Neill, Liam Collins, Jim Lyndon, Gerard Buckley, Frank Buckley, Peter Joyce.

6th Row: Karl Daly, Michael McNamara, Alan Loomes, John Kiernan, David Garrahy, Damien Coffey, Michael Crowley, Fr. Gabriel, John Mullally, Billy Clarke, Matthew Cody, Chris Farrell.

additional drink or two might have been taken during those late hours of Saturday night and early Sunday morning!

The following day it was back to the College where we were joined by the other members of the Union coming back for the day. Former teachers and deans mingled with the groups over lunch or at the Past v. Present matches. Others strolled, alone or in groups, along the walks, through the corridors, down the farm - covering all the old familiar tracks. By mid-afternoon the first cars had begun to depart and the homecoming - for such it was - was drawing to a close.

Monday morning loomed ahead. Wives and children to rejoin. Planes to catch. Jobs to be done.

It was an exercise which stirred up many emotions in this writer; affection and joy in meeting friends of youth; a sense of passing time which underscored as nothing else has done, one's own mortality; gratitude to those who have made Mount St. Joseph the remarkable and wonderful place that it is.

For my own part I need time to reflect upon and absorb the impact of it all. I found my own emotional equilibrium ever so slightly disturbed by what was, in one way, a contrived excursion into the past. Sometimes it is hard enough to cope with today's world without, at the same time, delving back into yesterday's, with its ghosts and its uncertainties.

We owe a great debt to the Abbot, the President, the Secretary of the Union and the community for the great welcome and the very practical assistance we received. They were given generously and enthusiastically. We owe our thanks to the hotel and the bus company which catered to our needs so well. We owe our thanks to the wives, children and others whose lives had to be disrupted to allow these middle-aged men indulge in a weekend of rediscovery. And we can acknowledge our own sense of loyalty and camaraderie, our common identification as Roscrea men, that sense of a common bond which brought us together for 24 hours. We shall, with God's blessing, meet again!

Conor Brady

U R G E N T A P P E A L

THE REVIEW NEEDS YOU



The 1992 Central Committee launched the 20 to 1 Draw to put the Review on a firm financial footing and ensure its continued publication for many years to come. The Review is published twice yearly and sent to the registered addresses of all CCR Pastmen at **no charge**. For many it is an indispensable contact forum with the College, Monastery and fellow pastmen. Its future **must be secured** and the responsibility for same falls on **pastmen**. The 20 to 1 Draw is a private members draw limited to subscribers, who may be pastmen or their friends, with 50 prizes of varying amount from **IR£3,000** to **IR£50** with a total projected payout of **IR£10,000**. Due to the slow level of response the draw date has had to be postponed to 27 September 1992, ie Union Day at the College. Without your support in terms of tickets purchase, the future of the Review is uncertain. Many thanks are due to the pastmen and friends who have already generously subscribed and we are grateful for their patience in accommodating the postponement of the draw to next September.

You may enter by completing and returning, together with the appropriate subscription, the application on the reverse of this form. Each ticket is IR£20 and a full subscription of 5 tickets is IR£100. Cheques crossed payable to CCR Union please.

Do not foresake the Review in its hour of need. Published, printed and posted to 2000 pastmen twice yearly free of charge, this is a worthy cause.

N.B. For record keeping purposes, should this notice and review have reached you circuitously, please fill your name and best contact point on the form provided overleaf and return to the address indicated.

CISTERCIAN COLLEGE, ROSCREA, UNION

THE REVIEW CLUB

20 to 1 Draw

Confined to Club Members

*Draw will take place at our Union Day
in the College on 22nd September, 1992.*

Maximum number of tickets: 1,000

Subscription: £20 per ticket

1st prize:	£3,000	6th prize:	£400
2nd prize:	£1,500	7th prize:	£300
3rd prize:	£1,000	8th prize:	£200
4th prize:	£500	10 prizes of	£100
5th prize:	£500	32 prizes of	£50

TICKET 1. Name: _____
TICKET 2. Name: _____
TICKET 3. Name: _____
TICKET 4. Name: _____
TICKET 5. Name: _____

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS OR PHONE NO.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

TO General Secretary
Cistercian College Union
Roscrea
Co. Tipperary

Dear Fr. Dermot,

Please amend your records to show my address as (Block Capitals).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Years in Roscrea: _____