

# ROSCREA

Union Golden Jubilee

# REVIEW

(This issue is sponsored by Mr. Cyril Hackett)

No. 37

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Summer 1980

## Some Recent Developments at the College

The Roscrea community has suffered from a drying-up of vocations — similar to that being experienced by most religious houses in Ireland over the past twenty years.

The numbers within the community have dropped to about 50. This indicates an ageing community wherein the able-bodied monks are over-worked.

The running of the secular church, the farm, the guesthouses, the mill and the college involves organisational abilities as well as the drudgery of the daily routines. It demands energy, stamina and patience from a lot of people. For some years it has been evident that the monks would have to depend more and more on lay people to help out with the community's mansided activities.

The college is most demanding of personnel — between teaching, counselling, controlling, organising and book-keeping. In 1979 the question of more lay-involvement in the school was faced and the (provisional) answer is in this article.

There were many meetings and some diversity of views before the present arrangement emerged. The first decision was to employ a lay-man as a fulltime dean-of-discipline with some counselling and teaching included in his duties. So Bob Allen was employed last September. Bob supervised the refectory, the study-hall, the dormitory and the school-grounds. He also did some teaching.

As Bob's wife and family were in Dublin, he decided to take a position in a Dublin school last November. Eddie O'Sullivan and Peter Sweeney were then employed to take over an area broader than that covered by Bob. They are young, energetic and enthusiastic and they have shown imagination and courage in the exercise of their duties.

Side by side with this development and complementing it is the involvement of lay-teachers in study-supervision. Teachers have been supervising study for

some years now but this year the supervision was extended. On five days each week, a teacher is on duty from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. He supervises tea, study and aftertea recreational facilities.

These changes are significant but not revolutionary. Involvement in games, public-speaking, (Irish and English), drama and music have traditionally brought the lay-teachers into extra-class activities at the college. Recent developments have certainly increased that participation. A further widening of that involvement in the coming years is inevitable.

Even if young monks appeared in the morning, it would take many years before they would be ready for responsibilities within our school-structures. Not to worry. The laity are the people of God. They too can lead young people towards God. The Cistercian-presence will never disappear from our college, but the parents and past pupils may become more aware of the lay-presence over the next ten years. I hope they will welcome such a presence.

Liam S. Maher



BISHOP FORRISTAL AND THE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Bishop Laurence Forristal visited the College on May 5th. He said Mass in the College Chapel and spoke to the boys. Later he dined with the senior boys in the Refectory. The picture shows him with the House Captains. Brendan McHugh of Mullingar is on the Bishop's right. The second and third Captains are on the right and left of the picture. Padraig Haran of Whitegate who was also leader of the Irish Debating team, and Conor Irwin of Navan who won the Gold Medal for Public Speaking. The Bishop got the boys an extra week's holidays.

## Seminar for Parents

On Sunday, May 4, the college organised a short seminar for the parents of first year boys on the general topic of adolescence.

The programme was straightforward: (1) 3 p.m. Talk by Fr. Nivard Kinsella, O.Cist., (2) 3.45 p.m. Break for a cup of

tea (served by the Sixth Year students), (3) 4.15 p.m. Discussion-groups in action, (4) 4.45 p.m. Panel-discussion. (Mrs. Christine Lemass and Fr. Nivard were the panelists but some questions were passed to Fr. Peter Garvey, the college President). (Continued on page 2)



About sixty parents attended, which was an encouraging response. The leaders of the groups (six in all) were appointed beforehand and the groups were arranged through a numbered card collected at the door. The groups prepared questions for the panel.

Questions covered discipline, love, pocket-money, sex-education, sport, exam-pressures, the ten commandments

The exchanges were so lively that the discussion had to be cut short at 6.30 p.m. — an hour behind schedule.

This is the second organising of such a seminar. The first was in 1979 when Mrs. Nuala Kenan of Limerick was the lady-panelist. The 1980 gathering asked for a similar seminar for them in '82 and another in '84 — when their questions would be different as their sons would be at different stages of their development.

As this is a new addition to the college-calendar, I thought you as parents or prospective parents would like to read about it. Your views will be welcomed and some will be published in later issues of the 'Review'.

*The Editor*

## Careers Guidance Counselling at C.C.R.

Since September 1979 we have at C.C.R. a Careers Guidance and Counselling Service for the students. Fr. Andrew, who completed the Diploma in Careers Guidance course at U.C.D., is in charge. We have waited a long time to have this service permanently set up for our 285 students. As only half of the Republic's secondary schools have a qualified careers teacher on their staffs we think it is fortuitous to have this service in full swing!

Perhaps here it would be well to mention what the C.C.R. Careers Guidance office is NOT: it is not a job-finding agency; it is not a professional psychological diagnostic centre; it is not a place where students are *told* what they are suited for.

Students, over the five years, will be helped to make up their own minds. This helping process involves (among other things) — class-work at all levels, group-work, study of the 'mechanics' of decision-making, helping young men to come to a more realistic and precise self-image themselves, making more obvious to them their aptitudes and perhaps their subconscious interests, assessing their I.Q.

The careers counsellor is available for private conversation and consultation — so each student, at several stages of his

stay at C.C.R., will be made aware of his academic progress and of his adolescent social development.

All of this is geared towards helping the student in coming to a happy and realistic decision regarding his future. This also involves, especially in his years in the Intermediate Certificate class, of his becoming aware of what subject groupings in his Leaving Certificate years are necessary and suitable for him. Of course a major part of the work of the Careers Guidance teacher is to make available all relevant information concerning courses and jobs. Mr. Williams, our College Librarian, is sincerely thanked for his valuable aid and advice in this matter. The Careers Library is now a most important and a vitally essential part of our service.

Also to be thanked particularly are all those past pupils who this year (as in other years) came and spoke to the interested students on their professions and and work and who gave individual interviews and advice to those especially interested. Finally, we thank the any people (mostly from the neighbourhood of C.C.R.) who on the 16th of April acted on interviewing boards for a 'mock-interview' session for all fifty sixth years.

## South Tipperary Branch

It has been a long time since the South Tipp Branch had an official social function. Since the very beginning of the re-organising of the Union Fr. J. P. Sweeney, ably assisted by Matt Hyland and Kevin Dwan, set a very high standard to be achieved by this Branch. It was once again realized at the Dinner Dance held at Hayse's Hotel, Thurles on the 14th February.

This being the Golden Jubilee of the Union a special effort was made to mark the occasion. It is significant that it is Kevin Dwan who is once more getting things moving. He is the new Chairman for South Tipperary. Kevin and his charming wife Lucy hosted this very happy occasion.

The attendance included groups from other branches from Dublin came Noel Windle — the most eligible bachelor in the Union; Ignatius and Mrs. Houlihan, who have been such faithful patrons of Union functions during the latter's years as President, came all the way from Ennis; from North Tipp. came Richard and Ann Liffey; the Chairman and President Elect, Pat O'Shea and his wife Margaret came from Kilkenny. And no Union gathering would be complete without the President Frank Lynch and his wife Pat.

An excellent meal with wines was provided, and the speeches that followed were few, brief and to the point. Kevin Dwan welcomed the guests and thanked

them for coming. He had a special word of praise for his Committee who were spread over a wide area from Youghal to Cashel. The President of the Union said it was a great joy to him to see South Tipperary viable once more, and congratulated Kevin Dwan and his association on the success of their undertaking and the courage with which they tackled all the problems. Fr. Peter Garvey said they had great hopes for this year's rugby teams and all was well at C.C.R. He was glad to see so many parents of present students among the guests. He wished the South Tipperary Branch a sound and successful future.

Among those present were: Frs. T. J. Hogan, Denis Foley, Billy Meehan, Denis Curtin — next of Dublin, this Branch has more priests in its ranks than any other Branch. Space does not permit an exhaustive list of those present.

## North Tipperary Branch

The "do" in the Fox's Den, Cloughjordan was one of the most memorable for many a day. It was organised by Richard Liffey, Chairman of the Branch — who intended to get the members together to elect a new Chairman. But when this proposal was put to the assembly it was vociferously rejected. They were so pleased with the way the evening was going, and the success of the attendance, that they persuaded Richard to stay on, and do it once again next year! This he agreed to do, and intends to have his successor groomed for 1981.

The demand for tickets for this function far succeeded the limit which the venue imposed on the Committee, and they are a wee bit anxious that a similar situation next year will cause offence to those who leave their bookings too late. But this is a chance that must be taken, because one of the real joys of the occasion this year was the size of the gathering — sixty in all — and the intimacy of it all. Every man was a C.C.R. man, and limited though the gathering was it spanned a wide generation range with representatives of each decade from the 1920's to the 70's.

A session of song, dance and storytelling followed an excellent meal. Anthony Bennett was a riot at telling a yarn, and he was called for again and again to recount the adventures of some of his characters.

The attendance included the President of the Union, Frank Lynch and his wife Pat; Fr. Peter Garvey, President of the College; the Chairman of the South Tipp. Branch, Kevin Dwan and his wife Lucy; the old reliables from Roscrea Dan O'Meara, both Michael Maddens, Michael Duigan, Tim Maher the Secretary of the Branch (who's wife Kathleen has since presented him with a son); John



Cahalane was there and so was Paddy Quinlan. Johnny Dolan came all the way from Kilbeggan, and Cyril Hackett and his wife from over near Tullamore. Brendan Galvin and Charlie Cavanagh were up from Nenagh and Jim and John Phelan from the other end of the area around Portlaoise. Victor Mitchell, Kevin McDonagh and Johnny O'Connor were also present — the latter having worked hard for the success of the occasion. Then there were the Hoare brothers from Birr, Dr. Dick Dwyer of Toomevara and John de Loughry who sang songs far into the night for the entertainment of the company . . . It was a great night.

## The Dublin Dinner Dance

The Dublin Branch usually hold their Dance on the last Friday in January. They are the inheritors of a long tradition and they have seen this function holding a very prestigious place in the social season of the city. Circumstances this year forced the postponement of the Dance until mid-April. Late in the season though it was the good organisation of the Committee headed by Dr. Bernard Sherry and Michael Coyle, the Oak and Elm Rooms in Jury's Hotel were full to capacity.

Students (and friend) were offered tickets at half-price and a number of "recent past" availed of the offer, but the bulk of the attendance was made up of the old reliables — Ron and Conor Massey, Noel Windle, Milo Butler, Noel Kinirons, Matt Hyland, Dr. Liam Collins, each with a wide, and by now, familiar circle of friends. Some were new to the scene, Conor O'Hara, Martin Clancy, Nial O'Donoghue, Juergen Bielstein, John and Noel White, Dr. Terry Maguire. The President of the Union Frank Lynch was there and also the President Elect, Pat O'Shea. The meeting would not be complete without the presence of Gerard and Kitty Bates. It was a pleasant surprise for many of his contemporaries to meet Michael Roche (1952) home from California. Barry O'Sullivan was back with us once more. John White and Tom Fletcher spent much of the time pouring over a school photo playing that popular guessing game, "Who is that? And what became of him?"

There was a raffle during the evening for some unusual prizes — two Roscrea Brown Loaves, newly baked, a large cuddly elephant presented by Milo Butler and an oil painting by Fr. Dermot. The latter was won by Noel Windle and some of his friends protested that the draw was rigged. A quart bottle of Scotch was won by a Pioneer . . . what a waste!

A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

## Fifteenth Centenary of the Birth of St. Benedict

St. Benedict was born at Norcia in Italy in the year 480. He was educated in Rome. To foster a life of prayer he retired to Subiaco and lived as a hermit for some time. Later, followers gathered around him and he founded a monastery at this place. It still exists to the present day.

Circumstances forced him to move again, and going south he settled at Monte Cassino. Here he founded what was to become the most famous of his monasteries. It was destroyed in 1944 by the British and Americans in one of the bloodiest battles of the Second World War. The monastery has now been rebuilt.

It was at Monte Cassino that St. Benedict wrote his Rule for Monks. A short document of no more than 20,000 words, it is remarkable for its discretion. His guiding principle was that a monk should be one who truly sought God, and in this quest he ordained nothing that was too difficult "so that the strong may have something to strive for, and the weak be not discouraged."

The Benedictine tradition is one of the oldest in Europe. Very few traditions go back beyond 1500 years. Benedict was there before Mahomet, he was born when St. Patrick was still working in Ireland, and his Rule had flourished in Europe for over half a thousand years before the Cistercians became part of the great tradition.

This year is being celebrated worldwide, and most countries are marking it with civil events. The Pope is making a special pilgrimage to the Saint's birth place. West Germany is issuing a special stamp. In Ireland the following programme is being carried out by the Benedictine family of Monks and Nuns, i.e. Benedictines, Cistercians, and Medical Missionaries of Mary.

**March 10th, 1980:** Lecture by Sean MacBride S.C. on "St. Benedict and Europe."

**March 23rd:** Solemn Mass at Holy Cross Abbey sung by the Monks of all the Irish monasteries, assisted by the nuns of Kylemore and Glencairn.

**May 20th:** At Kylemore Abbey, the Benedictine Nuns will celebrate the Centenary. Cardinal O Fiaich and Archbishop Cunnane will officiate.

**July 13th:** There will be Mass in the ruins of Mellifont Abbey. Again Cardinal O Fiaich will officiate.

**October 12th:** Abbey Church in Glenstal will be consecrated.

To commemorate the year a series of programmes on Radio were broadcast by RTE. Under the title of "The Mountains have become Torches" they dealt with various aspects of monasticism.

(Note from the General Secretary: The Lord Abbot and Committee wish to thank particularly the members of the Union who attended the Mac Bride lecture in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, especially the junior members who acted as stewards for the occasion.)

## News about Past Pupils

Sean Dineen (1961) has been appointed Professor of Mathematics at U.C.D. He is a native of Cork and took his B.Sc. and M.Sc. with first class honours in U.C.C. He received the Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and in 1974 was awarded a D.Sc. degree by the UNI. Sean is married and has one daughter.

Frank Aherne (1954) a native of Dublin is Professor of Swine Production in the University of Alberta, Canada. Frank is an international authority on the food and production of pigs.

**Brigadier General Louis Hogan** (1940) has taken up duty as General Officer Commanding Western Command. A native of Newmarket-on-Fergus, Louis joined the Army as a Cadet in 1940. He has seen service in the Lebanon, Congo, Cyprus, and was an observer in the Middle East from 1969 to '71.

**John Stephenson** (1968) was in the news recently as the organiser of the massive "Sense of Ireland" festival which took place in London.

**Frank Dwan** (1975) of Thurles, recently passed out from the Cadet School in the Curragh and received his Officer's Commission in the Army.

Our congratulations to Tim Maher, Hon. Treasurer, Roscrea, on the birth of his son; and to Dan Egan of Athlone on the birth of a daughter.

**Tom Gunning** (1971) has recently married and is living in Limerick.

**Billy Allen** (1974) of Tullamore is married to Valery Hctor, and they have gone to live in Thurlow Park Road, London.

**Pat Hartigan** (1948) from Kilmallock is lecturer in the Veterinary College.

**Tom Comerford** (1973) is now a Vet. in Dundrum, Co. Tipperary.

## Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of subscriptions and new Banker's Orders for the maintenance of the Review which we have received since the last issue from the following:

Mr. David Logan, Mohill  
Mr. Patrick Shee, Newtown, Co. Tipp.  
Mr. I. M. Houlihan, Ennis.  
Mr. Patrick Moriarty, Chepstow, Gwent.  
Mr. Michael Roche, Urlingford.  
Mr. Tony Slattery, Clonmel.

(Continued on next page)



Mr. Thomas Crosse, Fethard.  
 Mr. Patrick Finn, Thurles.  
 Mr. Michael Dwyer, Thurles.  
 Mr. Sylvester, Murray, Clonmel.  
 Mr. Eugene O'Brien, Caherelly.  
 Mr. Michael Madden, Roscrea.  
 Mr. Gerard Hoare, Birr.  
 Mr. Desmond Purcell, Waterford.  
 Mr. John de Loughry, Nenagh.  
 Mr. Brendan Galvin, Nenagh.  
 Mr. John F. Cahalane, Ballingarry.  
 Mr. Patrick Quinlan, Nenagh.  
 Mr. Victor Mitchell, Roscrea.  
 Mr. Charles Cavanagh, Nenagh.  
 Mr. Raymond Hoare, Birr.  
 Mr. James Phelan, Portlaoise.  
 Mr. Anthony Bennett, Tullamore.  
 Mr. Kevin McDonagh, Roscrea.  
 Mr. Eugene Garvey, Birr.  
 Mr. Christopher Carroll, Dublin.  
 Dr. Joe Daly, Ballygar.  
 Rev. Michael Campion, Hartepool.  
 Mr. Aidan McNulty, Dublin.  
 Mr. Denis Molloy, Longford.  
 Mr. John McCormack, Mullingar.  
 Mr. John Walsh, Dunlaoghaire.  
 Mr. Edward McCabe, Portarlington.  
 Mr. John Brett, Mullinahone.  
 Mr. David Andrews, T.D., Dublin.  
 Mr. Michael Houlihan, Ennis.  
 Mr. Eamonn O'Loughlin, Dingle.  
 Mr. Cyril Hackett, Tullamore.

## Obituaries

Very Rev. Joseph Dunworth, pastor of St. Stephen's, San Francisco died early this year. He was ordained priest in Thurles in 1926. He was a native of Grange Co. Limerick and left C.C.R. in 1919.

Dr. Con MacGuire died of leukaemia in April '78. He was Chief Radiologist to the Sussex Co. Hospital, and had his private practice in Hove. Con was originally from Dromond, Co. Roscommon and finished in Roscrea in 1930.

Joseph Hoade (1944) was working as an Agricultural Advisor in Tullamore for some time. He was killed in a road accident before Christmas.

Comdt. Brian Cantwell died in January of this year. A native of Cashel, he was stationed in Cork and he regularly supported the Union there. He left Roscrea in 1937.

Very Rev. Thomas Hayes (1932) parish priest of Kilcommon died recently.

Thomas Griffin of Killeen, Oldtwn, Co. Dublin, died last year. He left Roscrea in 1923.

May their souls and the souls of all Past Students who have gone before us rest in peace.

## Rugby Captain's Message



During the last few months the Senior Cup Team has enjoyed great success due to the dedication of the team and the expertise of our trainer Mr. John Burke. I would like on behalf of the Team to take this opportunity to thank our Past Students who gave us great moral and vocal support during our Cup campaign.

KEVIN KELLY,  
 Senior Rugby Captain.



SONS OF PAST STUDENTS '80

*Front row:* Stephen Liffey, Seadna Ryan, Tim Meagher, Conor Irwin, Brian Kinirons, Brendan Ball, Rody Gallagher, Martin Dwan, Martin Daly, John Malone, Eddie Gallagher, Declan Naughton.  
*Second row:* Brian O'Regan, Paul Hackett, Seamus Murphy, Ronald Culliton, Luke Daly, Colm Roche, Fergus Liffey, John Nolan, Joseph O'Shea, Bryan O'Brien, Donal Deegan, James Murphy, Niall Raffery, Brian O'Loughlin.  
*Third row:* Peter Daly, Colman McCarthy, David McEvoy, Donal Delahunty, Charles Johnson, John Roche, George Doorly, Paul Kinirons, Tim O'Brien, Simon Keenan, Vincent Brown, John O'Regan.  
*Fourth row:* Michael McCarthy, Terence McCarthy, Stephen Brady, Desmond O'Connor, John Flynn, John Dwan, Colin Payne, David O'Brien, Gerard O'Callaghan, Simon Delahunty, Mark Dwan, Fergal Doyle, Pdraig Malone.  
*Fifth row:* Michael Roche, Kyran Johnson, Brian Culliton, James Flynn, Patrick Johnson, Pat Gallagher, Kevin Garvey, Enda Naughton, Michael Dwan, David McCarthy, John Cahill.

SPORTS DAY

&

PARENTS DAY

1980

SUNDAY 1st JUNE

UNION DAY

&

A.G.M.

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER

1980



Summer Issue 1980.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

I was recently asked by our Reverend General Secretary, Fr. Dermot, to have my name engraved on the Presidential Chain and I understand that this is the first sign that my two year presidential term of office is drawing to a close, and what a wonderful experience this has been for me. Pat O'Shea our next President will accept the Chain of Office next October and I wish him every success and joy.

Another group of young people will be coming to the end of another chapter in their lives this Summer - the Leaving Certificate students - and I would like to pay a special tribute to them and extend a very warm welcome to each and every one of them to the Roscrea Past Students Union. I had the pleasure of meeting the fifth and sixth year classes on a number of occasions during my Presidency and more recently, in common with many of our past students, I have followed their fortunes in the Leinster Rugby Cup matches, senior and junior..

It was wonderful to attend Lansdowne Road and see the senior team representing the college in the semi-final. It was equally gratifying to witness the wholehearted support and dignified behaviour of the boys of the college. Even in defeat, a very narrow defeat might I add, they reflected great credit on Father Peter and his staff. I am confident that as past students they will continue to uphold the proud and honorable tradition spanning fifty Union years. I would say to those boys leaving the college this year, the future of the Roscrea Union is yours and our General Secretary, Father Dermot, will be very pleased to put you in touch with your local branch committee, where you will be made very welcome and if I can be of any help, I am entirely at your service.

FRANK B. LYNCH,  
President Roscrea Union.

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PROGRAMME FOR UNION DAY.

Overleaf we provide a Reservation Form for Union Day. Please detach and send it back to us as soon as possible - it will help greatly in our catering plans for the Union Dinner etc.

The time table will be as follows:-

11 a.m. Union Mass in Abbey Church. 12.30 - 1.00 p.m. Lunch in College. 1.45 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Union. 3.00 p.m. Past v Present Matches. 5.00 p.m. Sherry Reception. 5.30 p.m. Union Dinner, at which the new President will make his first public address.



## STAFF CHANGES IN THE COLLEGE

Fr. Ciaran replaces Fr. Emmanuel as Dean of Studies.

Fr. Gabriel returns to the Monastery to replace Fr. Ciaran.

Mr. Paddy Kennedy replaces Fr. Gabriel as College Bursar.



MORE ABOUT PAST STUDENTS

JIM FEHILY has recently been appointed Professor of Regional and Urban Planning in U.C.D. Now living in Dublin, he is a native of the Hill of Down, Co. Meath. He designed the Swimming Pool for the College in 1972. Jim left Roscrea in 1948.

REV PAT SHEARY was ordained to the priesthood in Milltown Park last June. He is a Jesuit and is a native of Nenagh. He left the College in 1968.

JAMES SHERRY (1972) of Foxford was married in June last.

SEAN REIDY (1977) of Cloughjordan was commissioned in the Army last summer.

TOM KELLY (1970) and his business partner, Seamus Daly, had an exhibition of their firm's photographic work in China during the month of August. They plan to bring back a series of photographs of life in China to be exhibited here at home in the near future.

GERARD RYAN (1972) at present with Air Traffic Control in Shannon was married on 16 August last.

FINTAN RYAN (1959) brother of the above took his M.A. this year. His thesis dealt with the use of the computer in getting from A to B without ditching the plane - point A being Shannon, point B being Gander.

AIDAN O'COLMAIN (1974) of Abbeyknockmoy and MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN (1973) of Ennistymon completed their courses in U.C.G. last June and are now doctors.

RESERVATION FORM

UNION DAY - 5 Oct 1980

Please reserve a place for me for Lunch & Dinner on Union Day 1980.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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Please return this form with subscription - £10 ("Students" £5) as soon as possible to:-

The General Secretary,  
Cistercian College Union,  
Mount St. Joseph Abbey,  
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Enclosed: Chq .....

P.O. ....



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NB : To OFFICERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
Meeting 2 p.m. Sunday, 14 Sept 1980.