

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 38.

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Winter 1980/81

A message from the President

I was highly honoured at being chosen as President of the Union by the Central Committee at our last A.G.M. However, while I accept the honour with delight, I am only too well aware of the obligations and responsibilities which the office carries with it and I shall be relying heavily on the help and support of all our pastmen during my term of office.

I hope to make it my special aim to foster and build up the spirit of the Union — the spirit of comradeship that continues to grow among us, even after we have left Roscrea. To do this, I need your active co-operation — co-operation in strengthening and extending our existing branches, co-operation, also, in placing the Union on a sound financial footing.

In order to promote the spirit of the Union we need to meet on a fairly regular basis — hence we need active branches; and we need to keep in communication with other regions — hence we need “The Roscrea Review”. But to produce “The Review” on a regular basis needs money — a lot of money (a single edition costs over £300 to print and circulate) and if Fr. Dermot is to continue his good work in this regard he needs your support — not just moral support but financial support as well.

If you wish “The Review” to continue, therefore, you must be prepared to finance it on a regular basis. The method is simple — and quite painless! — fill in a Banker’s Order on a regular standing basis. The amount is entirely up to yourself, but £10, £5, £1 on a yearly (or monthly!!) basis will not break anybody. A word of thanks and appreciation will not be out of place for those who have already reviewed their Bankers Orders; for the others, there’s no time like the present, so do it now while it’s still fresh in your mind.

With regard to the fostering of Branches or the creating of new ones, I can assure you that the Central Committee will give you all the help they can and I myself will only be too willing to travel to any part of the country to help you. Might I suggest also that a concerted effort be made to involve the younger generation of past men in the Union, since we must look to them to ensure the continuity of our branch structure.

PAT O’SHEA.

The autonomy of the individual

I hold no position of authority in Roscrea College so I have no say in school-policy. That leaves me freer to comment on certain areas of school-life. My credentials are thirty years of teaching at C.C.R. and my observations over these years are my source of evidence.

Roscrea is *not* a results’ school. It does *not* concentrate on Leaving Certificate grades as the criterion whereby a class or an individual is evaluated. Now, don’t get me wrong. Our Leaving Certificate results will stand up to critical scrutiny. They are as good as most schools and better than many. But there are several schools in the country which perform better in the Leaving Certificate than we do. The reason lies in emphasis. We cater for the academic training of our students; we do not (as cram-schools do) concentrate on the academic to the virtual exclusion of other important areas of human development.

We aspire to the ‘via media’. We admit this type of balanced approach is difficult to maintain. The scale may swing towards sport or lectures or debating or music or study or outings or prayer-meetings at any period during the school year. But the balance of the ‘via media’ is never lost sight of and is restored as soon as serious imbalance is detected. But continuous vigilance of the scales is needed.

Maintaining the balance involves occasional friction. Teachers may feel class or study is being neglected. Sports-mentors may think games are being victimised. Pupils may feel deprived and cheated. Such friction is healthy. It only becomes unhealthy when an element of fanaticism enters into the conflict. This rarely happens with us.

The school is owned and run by Cistercian monks. So it is not just a Catholic school; it has the extra dimension of the monastic influence. As such, it must be keenly conscious of the importance of character-formation with inbuilt Christian principles as the basis for that formation. The spiritual development of the students is the primary objective of the school; not spiritual in the enclosed or inverted sense but spiritual in the sense of bringing Christ into the factory, the

cattle-mart, the directors’ office, the doctor’s surgery, the Dail

Parents may raise their eyebrows in scepticism when they read that last paragraph. Sons who are bored at Mass, who rarely frequent the sacraments, who are never seen to pray in private and are liberal in their views on sexual morality, seem far removed from such a formation-experience. They may well exclaim, “Rubbish. That’s not the sort of training they’re getting at all. It couldn’t be or they wouldn’t be so careless and casual about religion.”

I sympathise with such a reaction because I understand it. But I do not agree with it. Acceptance or rejection of Christ and his lifestyle is a free choice of each individual. Therein lies the essence and the mystery of free will and grace. I agree that rejection can be due to flawed spiritual formation either in the home or at school — or both. But the fact remains that Christ wishes for a *willing* service and it can only be willing if there is a free choice — to reject or accept. The autonomy of the individual is basic to the freedom of Christianity. None of us, whether parent, counsellor or teacher, can compel such a service from anyone given into our care. We can and should continue to pray for those who reject but we should respect their decisions and trust in God’s understanding. A sobering, maybe even a frightening realisation.

In all educational work the same autonomy of the individual is a supreme and overriding fact of human life. This can easily be lost sight of in the group mentality of school life, lost both by fellow-students and by teachers. It can also be lost sight of through the distortion of a self-perpetuating preconceived parental model which seeks to force the son into the parent-model. The model may well suit the parents, it may also choke or smother the son. Another sobering and frightening reality.

LIAM S. MAHER.

(Editor’s note: I hope in a later issue to publish a special assessment of the spiritual formation developing within our school.)

South East branch dinner dance

An excellent evenings entertainment was provided — which started with a champagne reception, a six course dinner, followed with dancing and singing until almost sunrise and full marks to the South East Committee under the chairmanship of John Comerford (Thomastown) whose attention to detail was the key note to the success of the function.

“Mr John Comerford, Chairman of South East Branch in his opening address welcomed everyone and in particular the President of the Union, Pat O’Shea, the President of the College Fr. Peter and the distinguished past Presidents and Chairmen of the various Branches. A special welcome was also extended to the two lady teachers of the College Staff, Ms. Mary Ryan (Languages and Music) and Ms. Pauline Raferty (Catechism and History). To honour their presence at their first Past Pupils Union function the President Pat O’Shea presented each with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Pat O’Shea acknowledged the tremendous spirit of the Union members which was evident by the numbers who had turned up from all parts of the country to support the South East Function and who are proud of the Cistercian heritage. It was his aim to continue the development of the Union Spirit and the comradeship among its members. This can be done by ensuring the continuity of the Branch structure and assisting the College in every way possible. On behalf of the Union Pat O’Shea congratulated Fr. Peter on the College’s 75th Birthday and wished the College, its staff and the Monastery continued success in the future.

In reply Fr. Peter summarised the role of the College as he sees it in developing the students both from an academic, spiritual, arts and games viewpoint. He emphasised the need to ensure that the students received a well balanced education and that he was satisfied that this was being done effectively at the College. In recognising Ned Byrne’s attendance at the function he was glad to report that the College has performed quite well in both hurling and rugby last year and expects to do as well again in 1981.”

News of past pupils

Matt Nolan of Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow — C.C.R. 1969 — married Mary Ford of Galway, last autumn.

Michael Ryan (1970) of Nenagh is now a dentist practising in the north of England. He is married to a girl from Cork.

James Tunney (1975) of Dublin, was recently presented with an Honours Diploma in Ophthalmic Optics at the College of Technology, Kevin Street, Dublin.

Godfrey Green (1963) who has an auctioneering business in Kilkenny, has been appointed area manager for the O’Connell Benefit Building Society.

Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Hackett (1921) from Killenaule, Co. Tipperary, celebrated his Golden Jubilee as priest in the Diocese of Los Angeles recently.

Peter MacDonnell (1973) of Dunlaoghaire, recently became engaged to Penny Venn, also of Dunlaoghaire. Peter is a Computer Programmer with the Bank of Ireland Group.

Tom Sheehan (1928) of Leap, Co. Cork, is a Postmaster in West Cork.

V. Rev. Austin O’Neill (1954) is now Parish Priest in Malton in Yorkshire. Fr. Peter Garvey stayed with him recently during a visit to Ampleforth.

There are at least four C.C.R. men with the E.S.B. as Engineers. They are: **Angus Ryan** (1951), **Gerry Breen** (1954), **Michael Hayden** (1951), and **Michael Hanley** (1967).

Joe Chambers, House Captain in 1974, was married in August 1980. He is a native of Kiltrush.

Edwin Carey (1974) of Dublin, received his M.Eng. from U.C.D. recently.

Fr. Nicholas O’Keefe (1958) a native of Carrick-on-Suir, is now stationed in Newfoundland.

Major-General Louis Hogan was in the news again recently when he was transferred from the Western Command and appointed Quartermaster-General of the Army. Louis left C.C.R. in 1940.

Sean O’Rian (1972) of Cullen, Co. Tipperary, already has a B.A. (Hons.) and an

M.A. degree with 1st class honours to his credit from U.C.G. He is now studying for a Doctorate in Trinity. He is working on a thesis in Sociolinguistics.

Francis Thompson (1968) formerly of Borris-in-Ossory, recently received his F.R.C.S.I. in the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. He now lives in Castleknock.

Tom Kelly (1970) had a very successful tour of China last autumn. An exhibition of his photographs was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan at the Gallery of Photography, Wellington Quay before Christmas. You will find some fine examples of Tom’s work in two recent issues of Bord Failte’s magazine “Ireland of the Welcomes”.

Joe Curley (1950) of Galway, former Chairman of the Galway Branch of the Union, a past-president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Oyster Festival, was quoted recently as saying: “The whole concept of town-twinning is to give people some idea of the cultural outlook of other nationalities and to bring people together in friendship.” Joe has already been instrumental in twinning twenty towns with compatible centres in England, France, and United States and the Third World. Galway, for example, has been twinned to Lorient in France. By profession, Joe is a consulting engineer.

Donal Spring and **Tom Kavanagh** are selected on the Irish Rugby International Panel for 1980-’81.

John Kavanagh (1973) of Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny is now married.

John O’Meara (1972) of Roscrea became engaged at Christmas.

Conor Kenny (1975) of Dublin is also engaged.

To **Jim Glennon** (1970) of Skerries and his wife Helen, we offer congratulations on the birth of a son, Francis.

John Carey (1967) of Roscrea, now a doctor in London, recently received his Fellowship in Radiology. His wife Mary presented him with a son, Martin Richard, a few months ago. Mary is Australian born.



Taken at the last South East Branch Dinner Dance.

College News

The College was 75 years old last September. There were no celebrations to mark this event, and we do not know of any survivors of that first batch of students. Do you?

But an unusual matter connected with those early years did crop up. A letter was received from the Curator of the Fine Arts Museum, Stoke-on-Trent in England, enclosing a copy of a pastel sketch done by a Staffordshire artist named John Currie sometime around 1908. On the back of this drawing was inscribed: "The inspiration of monastic labour": design for a mural at the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary 1908. This drawing was 39x90.5 cms. It was the design for the large picture in the refectory under which every student in C.C.R. since 1908 has taken his meals. A closer examination of it showed the signature of the artist "John Currie 1908" on the lower right hand corner. The painting itself is 10 feet high by about 20 feet long. According to verbal tradition the figures in the painting were portraits of monks who worked in the College and Guest House at that time. In the catalogue of Currie's work exhibited in Stoke-on-Trent last summer, the Roscrea painting is described as "Currie's first major painting".

The picture is an unusual memorial to a short sad life. John Currie was arrested in 1914 for the murder of Dolly Henry. While in Custody he committed suicide. He was 31 years old.

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There are now three ladies on the teaching staff, Miss Francis Bergin who takes Instrumental Music and Elocution; Miss Mary Ryan, Languages and Musicianship; and Miss Pauline Rafferty, Catechetics and History.

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Neil O'Mahony and John O'Callaghan.

In the Leinster Schoolboy Rugby Team 1980-81 Nial O'Mahony, who is House Captain of C.C.R., was picked for the wing and John O'Callaghan played 2nd row. John is Second House Captain.

In the International Schoolboy Trials John O'Callaghan and Con Egan got trials.

The Cup Match fixtures for the near future are: 1st round, January 28th at 3 p.m. - C.C.R. v. Pres. Glashule, in Portlaoise; 2nd round, February 9th at 3.15 p.m., in Newbridge College; Junior Rugby: February 23rd at 3.30 p.m. - C.C.R. v. St Andrews at Naas.

OBITUARIES

The sudden death of Fr. Joseph, O.Cist, Nunraw (Denis O'Dea, 1946) came as a great shock to us all. The following appreciation was written by Fr. Laurence Walsh of Roscrea -

Denis O'Dea was born in 1929, the third of five children. His youth was spent in Listowel, Co. Kerry, where his father was manager of the Bank of Ireland. After primary school he spent a year in Saint Michael's College, Listowel, and then with his elder brother, Paddy, was sent to our college here at Roscrea.

He is remembered as possibly the most brilliant student ever to attend our school. Somewhat of an all-rounder, Denis was a reliable prop forward on the school rugby team, and he represented the college as a half-miler in the athletic field. A member of the Children of Mary and Legion of Mary, he was first editor of the student magazine, *The Vexillum*. He tended to be somewhat of a loner, yet he was elected House Captain by his fellow students in 1945, and by general consent was rated very successful in the office. His ability as a debater led many to believe his assertion that he was planning to study international law at university, for in the spirit of the times he concealed his real intentions regarding his future career.

On 15th August 1946, he was one of eight postulants to enter Mount Saint Joseph. Abbot Benedict of Moone, Fr. Gabriel and myself being among the group. Denis entered with the intention of being sent to the newly-founded Nunraw, which did not have its own novitiate as yet. Among the senior novices were Abbot Colmcille, Fr. Nivard, and Denis's elder brother, Paddy, now Fr. Carthage of Tarrawarra. With his accustomed thoroughness, Denis went 'all out' from his first moment in the novitiate, rather to the dismay of the rest of us, who did not share his zeal.

Brother Joseph was sent to Nunraw in November 1947. By special dispensation he was professed in May of the following after a shortened novitiate, in order to avoid conscription! A few years later he was sent by

Dom Columban Mulcahy to Rome to study theology. Most of his monastic life was spent in Rome. It was there that he was ordained priest on Holy Saturday, 4th April 1953.

After the election of Dom Donal as Abbot of Nunraw in 1969, Fr. Joseph was appointed Prior, an office he fulfilled with his usual zeal and generosity. For the last five years he has been guestmaster, during which time, like many an excellent guestmaster, he earned the eternal gratitude of innumerable guests and the abundant criticism of some of his brethren! Such is life!

Fr. Joseph was present in one capacity or another at many general chapters. Towards the end of the recent one he preached a memorable homily in Latin one day, thanking with great warmth his many friends whom he said had been so kind to him. At the close of the Chapter he was given a great ovation by the capitulants when the Abbot General paid tribute to his outstanding service. Worn out by the gift of himself, and in the act of preparing to offer Mass in the house of friends in Paris, on his way home, he gave back his rich, though comparatively short life to the Father.

Denis was my best friend at school. Many a row and thirty three years of separation did not lessen the bond of love and understanding. I was one of many who enjoyed his abiding friendship. My sympathy goes especially to Fr. Carthage, so far away in Tarrawarra, who always took an almost fatherly pride in his younger brother, to the other members of the O'Dea family, and to the Abbot and Community of Nunraw, who have lost a loyal brother and a man of God. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Over the past few months we have received the following death notices: **Jerry O'Connor** (1949) of Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare, was killed by a bull some months ago; **William Gleeson** (1928) of Dulla, Cashel, and **Michael Brophy** (1938) of Rathcabbin, Co. Offaly, have also died. **Dr. Tim Hurley** (1914) - brother of Msgr. Charles Hurley, Dublin - formerly of Newmarket, Co. Clrk, died in Cardiff where he practised medicine for many years. **Canon James Riordan** (1917), parish priest of Ballyroan, Dublin will be sadly missed by the Dublin Branch of the Union, who's functions he attended regularly.

Thomas Gilmartin (1916) of Birr died early in the new year, and was buried in the Monastery Cemetery; **Rev. Dr. John Hassett** (1932), a native of Thurles, joined the Pallottine Fathers in 1932 and was ordained in Rome in 1939. While in Rome during the war he received his D.D. and L.C.F. at the Gregorian. He died very recently. **Eamon O'Boyle** (1938) came from Moate, Co. Westmeath. He was inspector for the Land Commission in Cork for a number of years. He died in January after a long and painful illness. **Jack Cassidy** (1931) of Killeshandra, who was a dentist, died in London last November; **Francis O'Reilly** (1918), a native of Athboy lived most of his life in England and died there before Christmas; **Patsy Dunne** (1930) of Kinnitty, died during the year; **Edward McCabe** (1941), a native of Monasterevan, died recently; **Tom Kevin** (1918) of Templemore. He was a brother of the late Fr. Niall Kevin; **Martin Delaney** (1917), Borris-in-Ossory, also died recently.

Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of subscriptions and new Banker's Orders for the maintenance of the Review and our services, which have been received since the last issue:

Dr. Bart. Cullen, Coole, Co. Westmeath.
Mr. Gerard Bates, Dublin.
Mr. Thomas R. Kelly, Drogheda.
Mr. John F. Walsh, Dublin.
Mr. Conor Massey, Dublin.
Mr. Michael Connellan, Longford.
Mr. Eamon Ryan, Lanesborough.
Mr. Gerry Moroney, Humboldt, Canada.
Mr. Frank Lynch, Dublin.
Mr. Joe Doyle, Cabinteely, Dublin.
Mr. Michael Lynch, Norwich, England.
Mr. John O'Shea, Crowdon, England.
Mr. Jack Dwan, Bennettsbridge.
Mr. Gerard Hogan, Thurles.

Cork Dinner Dance

This function was looked forward to for a long time as it was missed out for some reason or other last year.

The Dinner Dance was held in the Innishannon Hotel in November 1980. This is a delightful location on the banks of the Bandon river about 12 miles from Cork City. Brian McCarthy and his wife Áine own and run the hotel, and they can be justly proud of its appointments and cuisine.

The Chairman of the South Western Branch, Gerard Murphy of Newmarket, and his very charming American born wife have been shouldering the burden of organising this function for several years past. In order to bring it within easy reach of as many members as possible, they have moved the venue to the Isle of Skye at Kenturk — where Kevin Morrissey presides — to Killarney, and back to Innishannon again. Each location has its own appeal. (This Branch covers the whole of Co. Cork, South Kerry and West Waterford).

The meal was superb and beautifully served, and there were liqueurs after it with the compliments of the hotel! You don't get that sort of hospitality in the big towns and cities. The speeches in were few and short. Gerard Murphy, the Chairman and host welcomed the guests, especially those who had come all the way from Dublin and Kilkenny. He introduced the new President, Pat O'Shea, in turn thanked Gerard and his committee for all the work they had done, and put in a plug for more financial help for the Review. He reminded the assembly of the A.G.M.'s concern for the involvement of young members. The Cork branch had an ideal opportunity in this respect with a University within the area. It might be noted here that the Committee had provided a minibus at the Opera House — courtesy of Dermot Cronin — to bring students out to Innishannon. Only two turned up! The

President concluded by extending a special vote of thanks to Brian McCarthy and his staff.

Fr. Dermot, who is General Secretary of the Union, spoke next. He brought with him the good wishes of the Abbot and Community of Roscrea, especially those of the President and Staff of the College. He told of the changes taking place in the administration of the College and the greater involvement of lay teachers and others. The declining numbers of monks made clerical replacements in the College difficult. So he asked them to pray for vocations.

The annual General Meeting of the Branch was held immediately after dinner. The appointment of new officers was requested by Gerard Murphy. Donal McCarthy was appointed Chairman and Dr. Cuimin Doyle, Vice-Chairman. These two men would select their own committee in due course. As the ladies were waiting business was concluded.

The band struck up the music and the company danced until nearly dawn.

Note from the Editor

Notice of changes of address would be appreciated.

News of past pupils, suitable for publication, is always welcome.

Union ties

New Union ties — long and narrow — are now available at £5 each. A few "broad blade" ties are still on hand.

College News

The long-awaited "All Weather pitch" was completed last term. It is used mostly for Soccer, P.E. coaching and Athletic practice. It is also used each morning by hundreds of rooks and jackdaws as a grit-picking area.

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The Careers Guidance Officer at the College — Fr. Andrew — wishes to thank sincerely all the Pastmen who have come forward to assist him with Career Guidance talks in the past and he is seeking men with experience in Advertising/Engineering/Marketing/Personnel Management/Accountancy and in other disciplines which are presently being covered by the very reliable Pastmen enumerated hereunder. These Pastmen would like to set up a rota relief system so that the students themselves are given a break from the regulars. Sincere thanks are due to the following:

Tom Ambrose — Science and Electronics.
Paddy Ball — Teaching.
Gerard Bates — Army.
Larry Branigan — Law and Debate Adjudicator.
Joe Chambers — Law.
Steve Foley — Hotel Management.
M. Harrington — Veterinary.
Gerard McCarthy — Architecture.
Augustine Martin — General Topics.
John O'Meara — Agriculture.
Pat O'Shea — Management in Industry.
James Phelan — Dentistry.
Fintan Ryan — Aer Lingus.

Thus in order to assist those already committed to the Union's involvement in Career Guidance at the College we are now seeking support of younger graduates and also private business men and entrepreneurs. Politicians and TD's are also welcome.



John Currie's painting in the Refectory, done 1908.

UNION OFFICERS

President:

Pat O'Shea,
"Goodwood", Ashley Court, College Road,
Kilkenny.

Past-President:

Frank Lynch,
25 Kilteragh Road, Foxrock,
Dublin 18.

Branch Chairmen:

NORTH TIPPERARY

Richard Liffey,
Ballyboy, Shinrone, Birr,
Co. Offaly.

SOUTH TIPPERARY

Kevin Dwan,
"Riversdale", The Mall, Thurles,
Co. Tipperary.

MIDLANDS

Michael Connellan,
"Clua House", Battery Road,
Longford.

SOUTH WEST

Donal McCarthy,
'Hadwell Heights', Lower Aghada,
Co. Cork.

SOUTH EAST

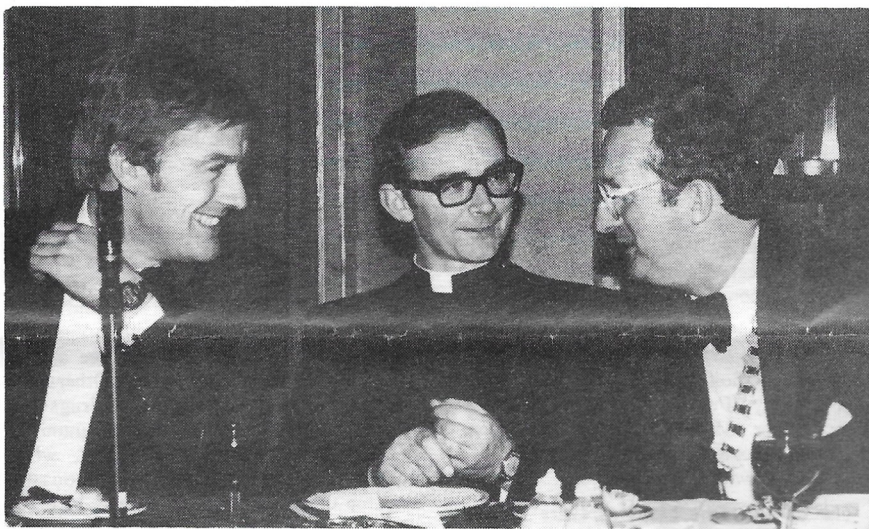
John Comerford,
Burrells Park, Thomastown,
Co. Kilkenny.

DUBLIN

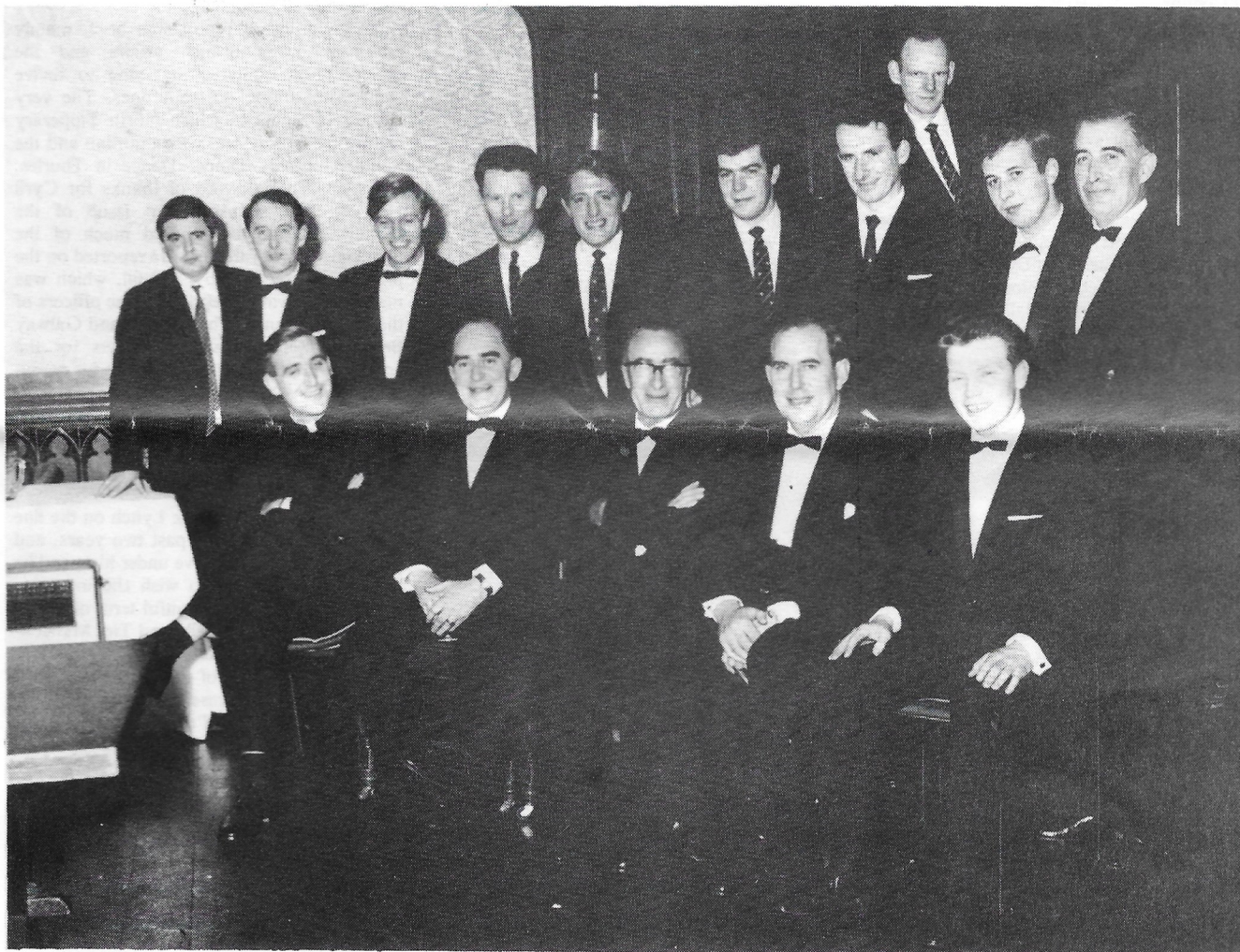
Conor Massey,
Weyburgh House, Stradbrook Road,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

LIMERICK/CLARE

Joe O'Connor,
25 Highfield, Ennis Road,
Limerick.



John Comerford, Chairman South East Branch; Fr. Peter Garvey, President of the College; Pat O'Shea, President of the Union.



London Committee 1967. This is the last record we have. It is time we up-dated it!

THE VOCATION CRISIS!

UNION DAY

Recently I met a lady who was very worried about our lack of vocations, and who said and meant it, that she would do anything she

Social functions

Midland Branch: Promise an enjoyable night of good food and entertainment on Saturday, 31st January at the "Rustic Inn", Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford. Commencing with a Sherry Reception at 8.30 p.m. Tickets are £7.50 each and may be booked from: John Dolan, Brosna Lodge, Kilbeggan. Phone 0506-32108; Eugene Garvey, Harbour Street, Tullamore. Phone 0506-41469; Anthony Bennet, Harbour Street, Tullamore. Phone 0506-51141.

Dublin Branch: Hold their annual dinner at the Milltown Golf Club, Dublin on Friday, 30th January. Further details may be had from: Conor Massey, Weyburgh House, Stradbroke Road, Blackrock; Michael Coyle, 1 Leinster Lawn, Dublin 14.

The date for the **Limerick/Clare** Dinner Dance at the Limerick Inn during March proved very unlucky, so they changed the date to Friday, 10th April 1981. The tickets cost £10 each. For further and more accurate information contact any of the following: Joe O'Connor, 25 Highfield, Ennis Road, Limerick, 'phone, home, 061-51632, office, 065-22215; John O'Riordan, office, 061-44355; Conal O'Neill, Vet., Cappamore, 061-81209; Michael D. Murray, Solr., office 061-47739; Finbarr Bennett (with Stokes, Kennedy, Crowley) office 061-40222; John Coughlan, Hillview, Cahercorney, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Another function during March is **North Tipperary**. They hope for a repeat performance at the Fox's Den, Cloughjordan, but for more precise information contact: Richard Liffey (Jnr.), Ballyboy, Shinrone, Birr; Tim Maher, Anngrove House, Roscrea.

could to encourage a prospective postulant. When I asked her if they had regular family prayer at home she admitted that they did not. When I enquired how her husband would feel about introducing it — she said that his view was that it would be alright during the ads. (on T.V.)!

Now if this is your attitude, don't tell me that you are worried about our vocation crisis. Vocations to the priesthood or religious life, and more especially to the contemplative/monastic life will not co-exist with a materialistic view of life and way of living.

However many young people are reacting against the march of materialism. Some have gone to the East to seek out gurus to lead them to enlightenment. Others have tried life in communes, living close to nature and doing no violence to it. Some join way-out religious sects reacting against what they see as the failure of the faith of their fathers. Others still just drop out and turn to drink and drugs and sex. But some have formed lay communities attached to traditional monasteries, while others are looking once again at full monastic life. One of our Dutch Abbots was here the other day. He told us that they have four novices after years without any. Our Monastery in England, Mt. St. Bernard, has seven in the novitiate, as has the Cistercian Monastery of nuns in Co. Waterford, with two more expected soon, mostly university graduates.

For someone truly seeking God, who is generous enough to pay the price, we feel that we have the best product, as one of our Americans put it, but that we are poor salesmen!

If you think you would like to discuss a possible vocation don't hesitate to write or call. There will be no strings, just an honest attempt to help to discern the Lord's way for you. Would any past students or friends like to have an organized vocations workshop here? We could respond to a demand.

Fr. Laurence Walsh.

Union Day 1980 fell on Sunday, 5th October, right in the middle of the petrol strike. In spite of this there were over 120 past pupils present, a large proportion 'recent past'.

The day began with the High Mass in the Abbey Church for the members of the Union who had died during the past year. The President of the Union and the House Captain read the Lessons. The College choir sang with the monks. Lunch in the Senior Dining Room (known as the Billiard Room to us oldies!) was served after Mass. After a period of chatting and reminiscing the A.G.M. was summoned. This was held in the Teachers' Common Room in the classroom block.

Frank Lynch was presiding for the last time of his term of office, and he opened the proceedings in his usual business like way. He thanked all for coming especially those from far afield, especially from the U.K. (later in the day Gerry Moroney from Canada turned up). He was particularly pleased to see so many young men — some already Committee members in their own areas. He had a special word of thanks for the members of the Central Committee with whom he worked for the past two years. He singled out the General Secretary for a special word of praise and hoped he would be with them for many years to come. Then he called on him to give his Annual Report.

The Secretary's report was brief, mainly concerned with Branch affairs and the difficulties encountered in trying to revive some of the long dormant ones. The very successful functions which North Tipperary held in the Fox's Den, Cloughjordan and the South Tipperary Dinner Dance in Thurles. He had a special word of thanks for Cyril Hackett who sponsored an issue of the Review and thereby relieved much of the financial worry of the job. He reported on the presentation to Bishop Forristal, which was made at a private reception by the officers of the Dublin Branch. The London and Galway Branches were the special targets for the coming and he asked those present for names of past men in these areas who would be willing to co-operate. He also suggested that a small Xerox copying machine would be very helpful in his work for the Review — a £2,000 job would do fine!

He congratulated Frank Lynch on the fine job he had done for the past two years, and the pleasure it was to serve under him; and he took the opportunity to wish the incoming President a happy and fruitful term of office. He also thanked Pat Kelly and Tim Maher — the Honorary Treasurers — for their work in keeping the finances of the Union in order.

In the Past v. Present rugby match the speed and teamwork of the Present team was too much for the old Fellows and for once they won — i.e. the Present won. There were not enough hurlers back to make up a team.

The Union Dinner was very enjoyable with a good cross-section of generations in attendance.

The newly installed President, Pat O'Shea gave a rousing speech at the end of the meal and thanked particularly the good Sisters Anthony and Rita for the excellent fare provided.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II with Captain Aidan Quigley (1939).