



A Very Special New York Dinner

September 11th last affected all of us in some way. No doubt many Pastmen lost friends and colleagues either in the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon or on one of the planes that were hijacked. One Pastman, John Walsh, currently doing an MBA at Columbia University plays on a Rugby team there - six of the regular fifteen perished in the WTC. No doubt other Pastmen could tell equally heart-rending stories.

A few days later on 16th September Central Committee was having a scheduled meeting in the College. Like everyone else, we were trying to come to terms with the immediate devastating effects of the events, and felt in our hearts a great sense of solidarity with all our friends especially Pastmen and their families living in the U.S.

Plans were already well advanced for the Annual Dinner of the North American Branch of the Union, due to take place on October 26th in Langans' in Manhattan, and a number of Pastmen from this side of the Atlantic were due to travel. In the immediate aftermath of September 11th, Union President Gerry Maher said he would be totally influenced by the North American Branch as to whether they would go ahead with the Dinner, and whether or not people from Ireland should travel.

Not long afterwards, the word from New York was that the Dinner would indeed go ahead, and all were welcome to travel. They were anticipating Mayor Giuliani's words - "If you want to help New York, come here!" A very large Irish contingent went, many of them with spouses. They included President, Gerry Maher, Immediate Past President, Aidan McNulty, President-Elect, Donal Taaffe, Joint Treasurer Liam Spooner, Pat Crotty, Gerald McCarthy, Noel Windle and Katherine Donovan.

One famous Pastman was already in New York. That fateful month of October saw Ireland in the Chair of the Security Council of the United Nations. Near the end of what must have been an exceptionally hectic month even by his standards, Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen made the short journey from 42nd St. to Langan's for the Dinner. Not only did he join the Dinner, but to quote Noel McCarthy was the star of the sing song that developed! Thank you Brian for being there!



Union President Gerard P. Maher presenting a Book of Condolences on behalf of the College to Mayor Giuliani's representative Ms. Diane Fitzsimons.



Peter Kehoe, Chairman of the New York Branch presenting a token of appreciation to Union President, Gerard P. Maher.

Pastmen all over the world will be glad to know that during the Dinner Union President Gerry Maher presented a Book of condolences to Ms. Diane Fitzsimons who represented Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as a special guest.

The following day, Gerry, and Donal Taaffe visited Ground Zero, a visit that left an indelible mark on them. In a way, they represented us all at that sacred place which, while important for all Americans has such special meaning for so many Irish people too.

As a footnote, the North American Branch is now planning two events later this year - one in New York on 22nd Nov., the other in San Francisco on 2nd November. (See calendar on back page for details.)

Romania Revisited

Mr Pat Sheedy

School Aid Romania was founded in 1992 by George Simms, a music teacher in Larne Grammar School, Co. Antrim. The movement had two aims: firstly, to bring badly needed material aid to the impoverished orphanages in Romania, and secondly to foster cross-community relations between Protestant and Roman Catholic Schools in Northern Ireland. For ten years, hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of aid has been brought to the land of Dracula.

Romania is a huge country of twenty three million people. It also includes fourteen minority ethnic groups, including Hungarians, Germans, Gypsies, Greeks, Armanians and Turks. The Hungarians form the biggest minority of two million people. All minorities were discriminated against by the Romanians - especially the Hungarians and the Gypsies who are on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

The infamous communist dictator, Ceaucescau, ruled the country with an iron hand for thirty years before being overthrown by the 1990 Revolution. He moved the farmers into the towns and villages and as a result vast areas of the countryside are denuded of people. Each family was given a four-room apartment in the towns. Ceaucescau encouraged every family to have at least five children and this led to the huge number of orphans when his regime ended. However, only Ceaucescau was removed and all the other layers of communist bureaucrats remained in their jobs. Corruption was and still is a major problem in their civil service.

Romania received a huge amount of bad publicity in the early 1990s because of the horrific conditions of their orphanages. Though some are still in a dreadful condition, many more of them have improved owing to the vast amount of aid given by first world countries. Romania wishes to join the EU and therefore has tried hard to improve its image across Europe. It should be pointed out that the country is richer in natural resources than Germany. Its wheat lands are extremely fertile and it possesses huge oil resources. However, owing to corruption and lack of leadership, those resources have not been utilised to help the masses of people.

Mr Tom Carroll led the first group of Roscrea Transition Year students to Romania in February 2001. On February 15th, 2002, Mr Carroll, myself and nine Transition Years travelled to Romania along with thirty five other students from Larne Grammar School and St Malachy's Belfast. Each school brought roughly \$4,000 with them for distribution. On account of the corruption among officials these monies were distributed through known sources, usually



linked to local churches. Toys, medicines and clothes were also brought.

Many of the institutions were grim. Some lacked food, most lacked medicines and the quality of care varied greatly. The quality of life of the patients depended on the qualities of the directors. Even the simplest toys brought joy to the children. Many of them just wanted to be held and hugged. We had been told by the 2001 students to expect the worst and this meant we were prepared for the harshness of the institutions.

I admit that I was completely unprepared for the squalor of the country villages. Most of the Gypsies and many of the Hungarians live in abject poverty in these villages. The sewers are open, each family seems to own about an acre of land and farm animals are very scarce. We saw carts being pulled by bullocks. Most trees have been felled for firewood and very little planting is being done. In central Romania temperatures dipped to as low as -32°C for two months of this winter.

We gave food, money and medicines to various institutions. As in 2001 we will supply bread to two orphanages in the town of Codlea, twenty miles from Brasov. For the coming year we will finance a bread run to supply a sandwich per student in a Gypsy school. Since charities began supplying sandwiches attendances have more than doubled in these schools. Very often the children have nothing else to eat for the remainder of the day.

Apart from the actual humanitarian work in Romania, the cross cultural aspects of the trip proved to be an extremely worthwhile experience for both students and adults. In this alone we have made lasting contacts. Our boys excelled in every aspect of the week's activities and proved to be great ambassadors for our country.

The nine boys raised about \$14,000 before travelling. The remainder of this money will be spent on the two bread runs and we hope to finance some medical operations in Barolt, a Hungarian town. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the very generous contributions of the Abbey, of the Union and of the student body of Cistercian College.

The next issue of the Review will include an article by Simon Fraser, one of the participating students.

EDITORIAL

Firstly, apologies for the late arrival of this edition - ideally the two issues should be at six-monthly intervals. A number of factors caused the delay with this one. I hope to keep to late August/early September and late February/early March as times of future issues. Many thanks for all the kind messages - it is nice to know one's efforts are appreciated. In this issue, a number of Pastmen have taken up the standing invitation to write about their activities and interests, and we have two articles by students on activities in and from the College. To all, many thanks for your good work.

What an extraordinary year it has been! And it is not over yet. The school year had barely started when the tragic events of September 11th shocked all of us. If those of us who were around at the time of John F. Kennedy's assassination will always be able to remember where we were when we heard the news, how much more so will we remember that horrific day in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. So far no news has come to us of any Pastmen directly caught up in those events, although each of us seems to know someone in some way connected. If any Pastmen have stories related to that day, please feel free to share them with colleagues through the pages of the Review. For the North American Branch it was great to feel the solidarity of the Union reflected in the large contingent who went to New York for their Annual Dinner on October 26th. We were all with them in spirit that night.

Other Branches and Groups' activities are detailed in the Union Calendar. Every good wish to Andrew Cody and the Class of 1982 who are having a twenty year reunion in September.

Pastmen will be aware that a Rugby Development tour to South Africa planned for July 2000 had been cancelled. At the beginning of this year, the Trustees of the fund for that trip agreed that the money raised should support a tour to France which in fact took place in late October 2001. *See the article by Enda Kelliher (Capt. SCT) elsewhere in this Review.* The subsequent success of the Rugby team suggests that such trips could have a big future in CCR! Great credit is due to the work of the Rugby Support Group which made it possible in the first place, and to all who helped with the organisation and gave of their time during the Mid-Term Break to accompany the boys.

Let's say it has been one fantastic year on the playing fields. Our Rugby and Hurling teams featured prominently in the national and local media, including a large spread in the Irish Independent in January on the eight dual stars! From the Union, let it be said that we are justly proud of what they have done, and we thank them and their coaches from the bottom of our hearts. At the risk of over sentimentalising things, we all had

an extra spring in our steps looking forward to the many matches this year, and at a time when bad news fills so many pages of the newspapers, it is nice to flick over to the sports' pages and read about yet another CCR success.



Speaking of CCR successes, nowhere has such success been more consistently achieved than in Athletics, especially in the Hammer. Pat Creagh died last summer just as the Autumn 2001 Review was going to print. We include a much deserved tribute to him in this issue. At the time of writing this, Ireland is in election mode. A recent newspaper feature dealt with the apathy of young voters. Two points come to mind. Firstly, we have heard and read a lot about the recent election in Zimbabwe. Our man in Zimbabwe (familiar to readers of the Review) has sent us a series of accounts of life there. Particularly striking were the reports of people queuing for hours and hours to vote, and if reports are true, being denied the opportunity. In that context, the idea that anyone would spurn the opportunity to vote seems incomprehensible. Secondly, while some say "the politicians are all the same", or "my vote won't make a difference", let it be said that Dick Spring, Brian Cowen, David Andrews, Tom Enright to name but a few CCR educated politicians are very different from each other, and of all of them it can be said that they *did* make a difference. They each contributed significantly at local and national level, and the former three have made an impact at international level. So whatever your political views are, make sure to vote when the opportunity presents itself. Your vote DOES make a difference. To the many Pastmen about to cast their vote for the first time in an election - go for it, and savour the experience. Millions of people around the world will never have it!

Once again, we appeal to Pastmen to ensure the continued success of the Review by signing and returning the enclosed standing order form to the College Development Office. Those who sent in orders for £20 will now, of course have them debited in euro. New orders will be taken at the round figure of 25 euro - fractionally less, but the nearest round figure!

Finally, I want to again encourage Pastmen, present students and staff to keep (or to begin) writing for the Review. It is wonderful to share experience and literary skills, of which they are, obviously plenty out there. As ever, people can write directly to the College, or to me at han@indigo.ie. Please make sure to give your name, address and your years in CCR. We did receive an anonymous letter some months ago - it made some interesting points, but could not be published as neither name nor address was given!

PAT HANRATTY

France Rugby Tour 2001

Two years ago, a schools rugby tour for the College Senior Team was planned and a considerable sum of money was raised to help fund the tour. Unfortunately, for the members of that particular year's Squad, this tour did not materialise. However, with the generous co-operation of the Trustees of the Fund, the idea of Tour was reactivated and a short 9-Day Tour of Central France - from October 23rd to November 1st 2001 was proposed. The travelling party would consist of 24 players and 4 adults, Mr Tom Carroll, Mr Seamus Egan, Mr Tom Hinton and Ms Niamh O'Rourke. The magnitude of such a task was by no means underestimated and every possible effort was made to ensure that a safe, successful and enjoyable trip would be had by all. Within an amazingly short period of time, everything was organised, all matches were scheduled and a tour itinerary was drawn up. With warm words and messages of support and best wishes from parents, staff and students alike, all was set as we undertook the storming of French Rugby!

Tuesday October 23rd : Rising prior to 4.00 a.m. is something that I wish never to have to experience again. As I walked around the various Dormitories making sure that each grumpy, bleary-eyed team-mate was up and getting ready, I was assured that they too shared my sentiments. Thankfully, this proved to be my worst experience of the entire tour. Despite our early start, we were all still in high spirits and excited by the thoughts of what lay ahead in France. The usual jovial banter of a team bus was absent that particular morning and was replaced by 5.00 a.m. slumber. The peace was only breached on occasion by the snores of certain members of the Squad, who shall remain nameless.

We began checking in for our flight from Dublin Airport at about 7.00 a.m. Then we were free to grab a bite to eat or a cup of coffee until our Air France flight, scheduled to depart at 9.00 a.m. began boarding. Our flight to Charles de Gaulle Airport went smoothly for everyone except for the youngest member of the group, Martin Leahy. His fear of heights assured that relaxation was unthinkable until we touched down at 11.50 a.m. French time. After leaving French immigration and collecting our luggage, we met with our Tour Guide, Sebastian. From here we were immediately transferred by bus, glimpsing Paris along the way, to Gare de Lyon. After a three and a half hour train journey south of Paris, we reached our first port of call, Vichy, which was to become our home for the first three nights. From the train station in Vichy, we travelled by bus to the Centre Omnisports Pierre Coulon. This was a magnificent complex which had top class facilities for many varied sports, includ-

ing Swimming, Fencing, Basketball, Martial Arts and Athletics. It seemed to be used by the French as a training camp for many of their promising young sports men and women, both regional and national. It is a facility that we Irish could be envious of. After having our supper in the cafeteria, which was obviously made to meet the needs of athletes, we took a short look around the complex. After such an exhausting day of travelling, nobody complained when we were instructed to have an early night. It was two to a room, which were equipped with bunk bed, wash basin and a shower. The race for the top bunk was the first competitive action most saw on tour! Happy in the knowledge that I had a room mate, Patrick Fleming, who did not snore and that I had the top bunk, sleep was no problem.

Wednesday, October 24th : After breakfast, we assembled for our first training session. Before the rugby had even begun the tour had claimed its first victim, Patrick Greene, who was bed-ridden with a severe fever. However, this did not deter Seamus from running us through our paces to 'clear out the cobwebs' from the night before. On the pitch next to us, Bernard Laporte, the French Senior Rugby Coach, was attending a French youth Development Squad training session. I know my French is a bit sketchy but on conferring with a few of the other lads, we convinced ourselves that we had indeed overheard him praising our style of play. Our session was kept short but intensive, due to the fact that we played our first match that evening.

In the afternoon, we were free to check out the town for ourselves. Even from the brochures that we picked up in the reception area of the Omnisports Centre, it was obvious that Vichy did not have much to offer us in the way of historic tourism, but sold itself on its sporting facilities and other outdoor activities. It was still a nice, clean town with narrow streets and a laid-back endearing atmosphere. The people were extremely friendly and on one occasion, when Jamie O'Rourke, one of our many French scholars on the tour, asked a local man for directions, the two engaged in a friendly chat and before he departed the man wished us the best of luck in our game that night.

We assembled back at our base and boarded a bus which took us to the Vichy Rugby Club, where we were to play the towns U/19 team at 7:00 p.m. As we togged out and got ourselves focussed on the job at hand, the tension and excitement in the Dressing Room was almost tangible. For most of the Squad, this was a completely new experience. Firstly, playing on foreign soil, secondly, playing against a team who would most definitely play a brand of rugby, which we were totally unaccustomed to and thirdly, playing under floodlights. However, from the kick-off, we were straight into our stride. It was obvious, even from early in the game, that the French were having trouble dealing with our pick and go style of rucking (thus sucking in their defense and leaving gaps out wide).

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This was something that was going to trouble the home opposition in all of our three games. By half-time, we had amassed a comprehensive lead of 5 Tries to 1. We made numerous substitutions for the second half, knowing that Squad rotation was necessary because travelling and playing three games in such a short period of time was bound to be extremely physically demanding. In an attempt to even out the match, the French acquired the help of some of the Under 21's. Early on they staged a comeback which definitely had us worried but we finished the stronger, winning 54-26. We then made a short presentation to show our gratitude to the team for playing us and showing us such hospitality. After a few of the lads exchanged socks with the French Players, it was back to the base for a well-deserved rest.

Thursday, October 25th : This was probably the most relaxing day of the tour. We gathered for a gentle training session to loosen out any stiffened limbs from our victory the previous night. Many of us had the marks and bruises to prove we had played the French team, who were fair but tough. For the afternoon, we were free to use the many facilities which the Centre offered. In the evening, we headed for the local Ten Pin Bowling Alley. We split into four teams, each team captained by a member of staff. Now was the time for the truly talented among us to stand out, now was the time for leadership qualities to be expressed, actually, now was the time for our House Captain, Andy Smith, to throw a horrendous shot! How damage was kept to a minimum and lives were not lost was a miracle. Once we realised no-one had been injured, the laughter didn't stop 'til we got back to the Centre. The most improved player of the night was Niamh O'Rourke, who finished as her team's top scorer. The prize for the most unorthodox style of Bowling went to Denis Boland (standing with his back to the Pins and rolling the ball through his legs). But the MVP on the night was the Aussie, Tom Hinton, who was in a league of his own. However, for that night at least, the fun and the laughs were undoubtedly the most important things.

Friday, October 26th : After breakfast, we finished packing and set forth for Orleans. It was a two and a half hour bus journey north from Vichy through flat, expansive countryside and the roads were enviable. It was on this journey that we first realised the singing talents of our Mayo contingent, Rodney O'Donnell & Ciaran Rouse. The unfortunate thing was that once they started we couldn't stop them. This was especially detrimental to the sleep-addicted Edmund Hearn, who didn't find true peace again until we got home.

We arrived at the Hotel Ibis Orleans, located right in the heart of the city, at around 1.30 p.m. This was to be our base for the next two nights on a bed & breakfast basis. After we checked in, some took the afternoon to test the qualities of the beds in our rooms, Edmund included! The more adventurous amongst us took to the streets. On first impressions, Orleans was a small, modern city, with wide streets and as we had become accustomed to in France, it was also extremely clean. The city is serviced by a modern-day tram system, which looked very impressive, but due to our ideal city centre location, we never needed to avail of it.

Our second match kicked off that evening at 6.00 p.m. We arrived at the Orleans Rugby Club and were amazed with what confronted us. It was obvious that this was a semi-professional club, judging from their enormous, uniquely

designed clubhouse, which also doubled as a stand for the main pitch. No club in Ireland would have close to the facilities that they had, regarding the comfort of the dressing rooms and the perfectly even, floodlit pitches. Unfortunately, the team that we faced didn't live up to the high standards of its surroundings. We notched up 59 points and managed to keep them scoreless. However, the game was not a wasted exercise, as we had an easy introduction into the style of play which Seamus was trying to instil. By all accounts, it seemed to be working. After the game the club held a short reception for us and I made an attempt at reciting the few French words that Ms O'Rourke had prepared for me. I believed I had done a good job but after hearing the muffled laughs of almost everyone in attendance, I feel assured that I made the right choice in studying German for my Leaving Certificate.

That night we had a lovely meal in a small hotel. Even after receiving some of the finest culinary delights French cuisine had to offer, many of the lads still maintained that you can't beat a dinner of bacon & cabbage. I suppose its true what they say : you can take the man out of Ireland, but you can't take Ireland out of the man.

Saturday, October 27th : It must have been an unusual sight for any of the locals who witnessed us travelling to our training session in a local park that morning. We walked through the city centre, on a street which I would compare to O'Connell Street in Dublin, fogged out in assorted colours and patterns, with gear bags over our shoulders and bantering in English. The talking soon stopped as we began a gruelling physical session. On the journey back to the hotel we must have looked even more comical as by this stage we were collectively covered in mud. However, our ridiculous appearance only added to the high spirit of the group.

That afternoon we met up in the main square, which we found adorned with a magnificent statue of Joan of Arc. After prising the two, ever joking, Mayo men, Rodney and Ciaran, away from a children's Merry-Go-Round, we were lead on a tour of the main attractions of the city by Ms O'Rourke. We began by walking a short distance to the splendid city cathedral, which had beautiful wooden furnishings and large detailed stained-glass windows. The city prides itself on the fact that Joan of Arc and her army freed the city which had been besieged by the English during the Hundred Years War. Therefore, it was implicit that we visit La Maison de Jeanne D'Arc, a house which celebrates her great feat and gives precise historic facts about her and her conquest. After going to Mass in a beautiful little chapel, it was time to pay another visit to a local restaurant to regain some energy. Before going to bed that night we made time to hold a mock or 'kangaroo' court. The court was presided over by his most honourable 'Judge Jules' (Julian Hughes), 'Judge Ciaran Rooster (Rouse) and 'Judge Michael Bandy Knee' Garvey. All verdicts and fines imposed by the Judges were final. Each defendant had the right to choose his own counsel. Both the defence and the prosecution were allowed to call witnesses to testify and all were given a fair hearing (well, sort of!). Everything from the usual unpunctuality for training, to rampant destruction of Bowling Alleys, to crimes against fashion were pleaded before the court. Any fine doled out by the Judges had to be paid on the spot and the money collected was entered into the tour kitty. Even the lads who had to dispense of some of their money had a good night and some great laughs. (Some investigations are still ongoing!!!)

Sunday, October 28th : Unbeknown to us we should have had an extra hour in bed that morning, due to the fact that the clocks had gone back an hour at midnight the night before. I was the first person to realise that this was the reason for our bus, as we believed, being late. On making my suggestion I was almost attacked for not thinking of it earlier, thus denying them an extra precious hour in bed.

Eventually, but on time, our bus arrived at the hotel and we soon left Orleans bound for Paris and the final match of our tour. After a journey of some two and a half hours we reached Vincenne Rugby Club. We had plenty of time to walk around and loosen up before the match began, which was needed after the bus journey. At first, Vincenne seemed to be a different proposition than our other French opponents as they began the first five minutes of the game very aggressively. However, it wasn't long before we got a rhythm going and began to impose ourselves on the game. We got some good patterns of possession together and at times played some great rugby. In the end we ran out easy winners 54-5. Our objective, which we had set out at the beginning of the tour, had been completed - played 3; Won 3.

The fact that we played good rugby and were playing the style that best suited also added to our sense of satisfaction. All that was left for us to do now was to marvel at the sights and sounds of Paris. That afternoon, after checking into our new accommodation, the Hotel Mondal, we had a little bit of time to check out the area. Later that evening we reassembled in the hotel lobby and took the Metro to the Basilica of Sacre Coeur. We surfaced from the Metro in the infamous Pigalle area of Paris. This area, home of the Moulin Rouge theatre was obviously too much for some to handle and so, we made swift progress towards the steps of Sacre Coeur. The exhausting trek up these steps is definitely made worthwhile due to the awesome sight which confronts you. Both with the magnificently lit Basilica in front of you and the breathtaking view of Paris at night behind you. Inside the Basilica is even more spectacular. After taking it all in for quite some time, we happily retreated to our hotel for the night.

Monday, October 29th : We got up early that morning as we knew we had a long day ahead of us. The first stop of the day was the unmissable Notre Dame Cathedral, made famous by Victor Hugo's book 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. Due to some heavy-hitting French opponents in the matches, we had our fair share of Quasimodo lookalikes. The Mayo contingent took this opportunity to enlist some more volunteers to their singing troop and began singing a rendition of 'The Fields of Athenry'. Next on our travels came the city's landmark attraction, the Eiffel Tower. Its sheer size was overwhelming. This didn't stop any of us making it to the top however, even Cathal Harrington managed to surmount his fear of heights to make it all the way up. I'm sure he wasn't alone in his feelings of anxiety. After thankfully reaching solid ground again, it was time to take another trip on the Metro outside Paris to a massive shopping complex near 'La Defense'. This area consisted of a large open plaza surrounded on all sides by huge modern buildings. After spending the whole day shopping, we returned to the hotel, bargains in hand. However, this was not the end of our event filled day. At about 8.00 p.m. we went to Aqua Boulevard, a massive indoor water park. You might have thought that our hectic trek around Paris would have drained us all of our energy but no. We still managed



to mess about like little kids, repeatedly half scaring ourselves to death racing down the various water slides. Unsurprisingly, sleep was not a problem that night.

Tuesday, October 30th : On our final day in France, we fulfilled every small (and big) child's dream and spent the entire day in Euro Disney. They mightn't admit to it but even the adults among the group were giddy with excitement. With the Irish Tricolour in hand and smiles from ear to ear, we triumphantly entered through the main gate. Gasps of wonder and amazement could be heard as our group of little boys split up and went on their merry little ways. However, for the past two days of our visit to Paris, Ciaran Rouse, who had sustained a knee injury in our second game, had to be helped by two people under each shoulder. Because of this, we decided that it would be a good idea to put him into a wheelchair for the day and I volunteered to be his minder. To our delight, we discovered that Ciaran and 3 others would be able to go to the front of the queues for the various rides. On hearing this, the House Captains present on tour, Andy Smith and Alan Wrafter, *unselfishly* offered to accompany us. Rides with approximate queuing times of 1 hour 45 mins, took us at most 15 minutes to board. We attempted each ride at least once, if not twice. For Ciaran, this was his reward for his suffering, for the rest of us, we were just blessed with good luck and made the best of it! At the same time though, the others really enjoyed themselves as well. It was a great day out!

That evening when we made it back into Paris, we went out for another gorgeous meal. Because it was our last night, we made a few small presentations to the four accompanying adults to show our deep appreciation to them for taking the time off their work commitments and their holidays to make the tour a reality. Finally, there was no better way to end the night and the tour than to take a leisurely cruise down the river Seine. We sat back, relaxed and enjoyed the sights of the illuminated buildings and monuments on river bank. Our cultural, historical and rugby tour of France was now complete.

Once again, I must convey my own and the teams heartfelt gratitude to all involved in making this experience possible. To the Trustees of the Tour Fund, Mr Gerard Maher, Mr Pat Crotty, Mr Brendan Hyland and Mrs Monica Phelan; to our four Supervisors, to the College President Fr Peter and to all the College Staff. Thank you all so much for making the trip the complete success that it was.

Enda Kelliher (Capt. SCT)

Senior Hurlers Historic Win...

by Pat Sheedy

Wednesday, December 12th will go down as a landmark in the history of Cistercian College Hurling. We beat St. Kieran's, Kilkenny for the first time since 1947, in the final of the Leinster Colleges Senior Hurling League on a score of 2-8 to 0-11. Scenes of unbridled emotion followed the game as parents, students and supporters joined the players in celebration at the presentation ceremony.

Our Principal, Mr Hugh Mc Donnell, is training the team for the thirty-second consecutive year. The team looked good on paper at the beginning of the year as we have six County Minors available to us. They are the Phelan Twins, John & Conor, who won Leinster Minor Medals with Kilkenny in 2001, from Kerry, Ivan Mc Carthy and Frank Hegarty, Peter Brady from Laois and Diarmuid Corcoran who won a Munster Minor Medal with Tipperary in 2001. In early challenge games we played quite well against Birr, Templemore and Kilkenny CBS. So we entered the League expecting to be a match for most of our rivals.

In mid-November, we played Kilkenny CBS in the first round of the League in St. Cronan's Park, Roscrea. It proved to be a top class game in which we were probably lucky to collect both points. We led by five points at half-time thanks to a great goal from John Byrne. Early in the second half we went eight points ahead after John Byrne put Conor Phelan through to score a brilliant second goal. However, Kilkenny introduced a few substitutes and began to reduce the lead. They finally levelled with five minutes to go and we looked to be in serious trouble. We were under fierce pressure and in an isolated attack, Ivan Mc Carthy shot a superb point

from fifty yards into the wind. The final score was CCR 2-8; Kilkenny CBS 1-10.

On November 30th, we travelled to St. Brendan's Park, Birr to play Birr Community School in the second round. We lost the toss and faced a gale in the first half. Our boys started really well and we deserved to be level 0-2 each after twenty minutes. Then we conceded a soft goal followed by two points, which left us five points down at half time. Birr increased their lead to seven points after the re-start and we looked to be in trouble. However, Ivan Mc Carthy brought us back into the game with four points from two 65's and two long-range frees. We were still two points down with four minutes remaining when John Byrne crashed home a brilliant goal. We finished deserving winners 1-10 to 1-7 after Conor Phelan killed off the Birr challenge with two classy late points from play. It was an outstanding team performance with John Phelan winning the 'Man of the Match Award' with a superb display at full-back.

On the following Monday, we travelled to O'Kennedy Park, New Ross to play Good Counsel in the deciding game of the section. Conditions were atrocious and the pitch was barely playable. We were fortunate to win the toss and get the benefit of the wind. We dominated the first half and led by seven points to nil at half-time. Again, Ivan Mc Carthy scored some great points from far out. We contained Good Counsel really well in the second half. Hugh's decision to bring Conor Phelan back to the half-back line to face the goal proved crucial. The boys arrived home tired and sore but thrilled to be through to play St. Kieran's in the final.

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Front (L-R) Edmund Hearn, Tipperary; Colm Sheahan, Cork; Alex Eivers, Meath; Austin Murphy, Kilkenny; Ivan McCarthy, Kerry; John Phelan (Capt.), Kilkenny; Diarmuid Corcoran, Tipperary; Pat Fleming (Cork); James Connolly, Galway; Des Hernon, Cork.

Back (L-R) Hugh McDonnell (Coach); Philip Purcell, Tipperary; Killian Murphy, Kilkenny; Richard Phelan, Laois; Peter Downey, Tipperary; Daniel Kelly, Tipperary; Frank Hegarty, Kerry; Jimmy Campion, Kilkenny; Conor Phelan (V. Capt.), Kilkenny; Conor McCarthy, Clare; Michael Kenny, Laois; Peter Brady, Laois; John Byrne, Waterford; Alan McIntyre, Kilkenny; Liam Meehan, Kilkenny; Maurice Mulvany, Meath; Brendan McIntyre, Kilkenny; Brian Clancy, Clare.

A Tribute to Pat Creagh

Well over thirty years ago, Pat Creagh was watching his nephew compete for Roscrea in the Hammer. From his experience, he felt our lads could do with a little coaching, and he volunteered to help out. As they say, the rest is history.

Joe Byrne was one of Pat's very first "students". He had never before thrown a Hammer but within a year he was the first of a long sequence of All-Ireland Champions in that discipline. A short tribute like this would not have room for the long litany of winners at Junior, Intermediate and Senior level in Leinster and All-Ireland Championships.

Pat started coaching in Roscrea at a time when the number of schools participating in the Leinster and All-Ireland sports was relatively small. Back in the 1960s it was not unusual for Roscrea athletes to win a large number of individual trophies and overall shields. As the 1970s progressed and into the 1980s, the number of second-level schools in the country increased dramatically as it became the norm for students to stay much longer in secondary education. Thus, competition in Athletics became more fierce, but in the Hammer, with Pat as coach Roscrea achieved and maintained an unbelievable supremacy.

Talking to past students about Pat, they remember with great affection the time spent with him. After hours in the classroom where, naturally, a certain style and discipline is rightly demanded, the encounters with Pat were refreshingly different. If you needed to be told, bluntly what was wrong with your technique, Pat told you so in a language and a style that was, let's say....different to what the teaching staff would use! At the same time, he spared no effort to lead the students with great persistence to standards which he knew they could reach, even if they were beyond what he achieved himself as a participant. There's a lesson for all good coaches (and even teachers) in that - we can help those we are coaching/teaching to attain levels far beyond our own achievements. It can be a humbling experience, but an honour, too. As one famous educator once said "Teacher: may you be eager to make your pupils understand quickly what it has cost you hours of study to see clearly." That would have summed up Pat's philosophy - he loved the Hammer and helped a generation of boys to achieve fantastic success. For some this including participation in International events and even the Olympic Games.

The other extraordinary thing was the voluntary nature of his work. Living in Dublin, Pat still made the time for the frequent journeys down, in all kinds of weather. He loved to stay in the Monastery - indeed he loved everything about Roscrea. He will be sorely missed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

SENIOR HURLING ARTICLE - continued from page 6

We faced St. Kieran's in Dr. Morris Park, Thurles, in the final, which was played on a sunny December day. St. Kieran's started well and we found ourselves three points down after five minutes. Austin Murphy settled us with a superb point and we gradually came to grips with our opponents. At half-time we were level at six points each. Diarmuid Corcoran was playing superbly at centre-back where Peter Brady was playing the game of his life at midfield.

We faced a slight wind in the second half. We took a two-point lead after James Connolly shot a superb goal. St. Kieran's levelled but Conor Phelan put us back in front. In a ding-dong struggle we were hanging on by one point when substitute, Richard Phelan crashed home a goal with a volley that would have done justice to John Mc Enroe. St. Kieran's scored a consolation point with the last puck of the game.

After the game, Mr Michael Reynolds, Leinster Colleges Secretary, presented the Leinster Shield to our Captain, John Phelan. In accepting the trophy, John thanked everybody who helped the team throughout the campaign, especially the Hurling Support Group under the Chairmanship of Gerard Mc Carthy.

This scribe is unaware of any school Principal who trains any sports team in his school. It is remarkable that Hugh Mc Donnell combines the role of hard working Principal

with that of highly successful Hurling Coach. Over thirty two years he has given total commitment to hurling in the school.

It is a remarkable fact that five of our Hurling Team played on the successful Senior Rugby Team, which won the Leinster 'A' League the previous week. Nine players were common to both panels. It was great to see our Rugby Coach, Seamus Egan from Tullamore, shouting himself hoarse on the side-line at our Hurling Final, a truly great sportsman. It was also great to meet Ned Byrne, who was supporting his nephew, Austin Murphy.

Team : Frank Hegarty - Lixnaw, Kerry; Daniel Kelly - Cappawhite, Tipperary; John Phelan (Captain) - Clara, Kilkenny; Conor Mc Carthy - Clooney, Clare; Alan Mc Intyre - Dicksboro, Kilkenny; Diarmuid Corcoran - Templemore, Tipperary; Liam Meehan - James Stephens, Kilkenny; Peter Brady - Kyle, Laois; Ivan Mc Carthy - Abbeydorney, Kerry; Austin Murphy - Clara, Kilkenny; Conor Phelan - Clara, Kilkenny; Colum Sheahan - Whitechurch, Cork; Philip Purcell - Emly, Tipperary; John Byrne - Fourmilewater, Waterford; James Connolly - Castlegar, Galway.

Substitutes : Richard Phelan - Ballacolla, Laois; Aidan Dollard - Castletown, Laois; Peter Downey - Ballyneale, Tipperary; Pat Fleming - Liscarroll, Cork; Alex Eivers - Ballivor, Meath; Des Hernon - Castletownroche, Cork; Brendan Mc Intyre - Dicksboro, Kilkenny; Killian Murphy - Ballyragget, Kilkenny; Jimmy Campion - Conahy, Kilkenny; Edward Hearn - Ballyneale, Tipperary; Michael Kenny - Durrow, Laois; Maurice Mulvany - Kells, Meath; Brian Clancy - Kilkee, Clare. Training and Development.

From our man in Zimbabwe:

Some thoughts received before and after their recent election.

BULAWAYO 8TH MARCH 2002

We are all set for the elections which the Govt and Registrar have assured us is not rigged - neither is there any way that it can be rigged as the system is watertight. Whew! That's a relief.

There was a story (nasty rumour) in the free press about soldiers in DRC and police and army in Zim voting early as they signed a declaration saying that they may be deployed on duty on polling day(s). They were given the ballot paper by superior. "Where is the polling booth?" "Ah, there is none do it here and I will tell you where to put the 'X'".

Fortunately it was only a rare occurrence involving only 70,000. Again the Govt denied it as all the army and police chiefs are honest people. What a relief.....!

Again! We hope there will be no trouble next week when it is all over and the counting is going on. How long will counting take? Until the right party wins! It is difficult to know which way it will go. There is an enormous swell for change and there are mealie queues everywhere.

Then against that is the knowledge that Govt. cannot afford to lose... Then again Bob has held 52 rallies and Morgan has only held about 7. My, oh my! I shall be up early tomorrow to cast my vote before going to Golf. On Sun 17 March we will have the St Patrick's Day Golf Trophy. There will be a light meal and light entertainment 'from the floor' to carry us into the dark. Other celebrations will wait until the second week in April. As there is serious drought I can only add that I hope it rains on the day!! I am reluctantly in charge (again) as 6 of the elected committee have departed from the country!

AFTER THE ELECTION: 19TH MARCH 2002:

Gullible we were. At one stage even I was excited, particularly when I saw the very long queues. I was up at 7.00am on the first day to find the queue about 2 miles long but happy. Everybody to a man with the same idea. I actually voted on the second day at 16.00 hours and was finished in 50 minutes.

I went around each time to three polling booths in the constituency - rates of one per 10mins, one per seven minutes and one per five minutes were evident. In Muzarabani they were doing a reported 1700 per hour!

I think the comment "If he wasn't going to win there would not have been an election" just about sums it up.

There was no violence under the gaze of so many observers. SADC and S Africa were wimps but 'ag maitheamh dhóibh fein'. The ANC will need the same favour next year!

The rural vote was bought with the land but also the number of polling stations was very large there. Consequently, the community they served was small - a village of 300-400 per box. Word is given out, "If we find any votes in your box going the wrong way we'll be back." So much for the secret ballot. Few observers were allowed to visit those areas and for the SADC observers they were too far from the Sheraton! Anyway, Govt had almost total control of the whole exercise.

Meanwhile my tribe are not too disadvantaged except that the economy in general will suffer. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our annual Golf Competition and in the middle of the drought, it rained non-stop from 3.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. It could only be that Maire Mhic Giolla Íosa had the whole of Ireland praying to Patrick for drought stricken Zimbabwe! It's a long way from the Abbot's Cup!

Slán.

REFLECTIONS: 20TH MARCH 2002

We now await to see the direction - will it change or just be a continuation as before? I fear the latter, as the man is known for keeping his word and if he says he will take all the farms, he will. And then start 'liberating' the economy. This, as usual, means not creating any new wealth but confiscating the existing and distributing (some of) it. The economy usually decreases in value and efficiency in the process. Zim is already well down the slippery slope of self inflicted decline.

The question will be asked why stay under such conditions. As mentioned, I haven't a farm and am not in the frontline, (although on Friday I go to the funeral of the last farmer killed.) I love the country and the climate etc. and my home is here now. Uprooting is difficult and usually painful and not done without cause. Outside influence can help the push - in my case being beaten to a pulp for not chanting the right slogans. But it hasn't come to that yet. (Example: N Ireland is still a good place to live in spite of the bombings, the tribalism etc. etc.) If and when its time to go I'll come knocking on your door! There is comment too, about how Africans see themselves. They know they are disadvantaged. It is human to blame something or someone else for one's condition even when one knows it is endemic. But one lashes out and clutches at any available straw - over emphasis on what one has - sovereignty, black is beautiful, African Unity (no such thing) etc. and above all, brook no criticism. Compare the pugnaciousness and drunkenness of the disadvantaged Irish peasant who emigrated 50-100 years ago. This was the same self-defence mechanism of one who is aware of being disadvantaged. To improve the condition, the cure has to come from within. Aid will not help much but, as is recognised, causes dependence. The African is still trying to find his boot straps with which to pull himself up!

Best wishes to all in CCR!

P.S. Had a call from an Irish journalist working in Africa who was looking for the Irish Angle on the results. Were we being beaten and how often? Were we starving? How many of us left? Had we asked Bertie to send the gunboat up the Zambezi to rescue us? etc I told him it wasn't as bad as 1845 just yet.



Dublin Dinner January 2002

100 Pastmen attended the United Services Club for the annual Dublin Dinner in January. The College/ Monastery were represented by Fr. Peter Garvey and the Union by Mr. Gerard P. Maher, President. Various fellow Dublin schools were represented by their Presidents - a long established tradition in Dublin. One of the defining characteristics of the evening was the very high standard of Speech Making. This is obviously a reflection of the long tradition of Public Speaking and Debating in the College. For the first time in many years all three speakers were "In House" - Dublin Branch Chairman, Kieran Fitzgerald, College President, Fr. Peter and Union President, Gerard Maher.



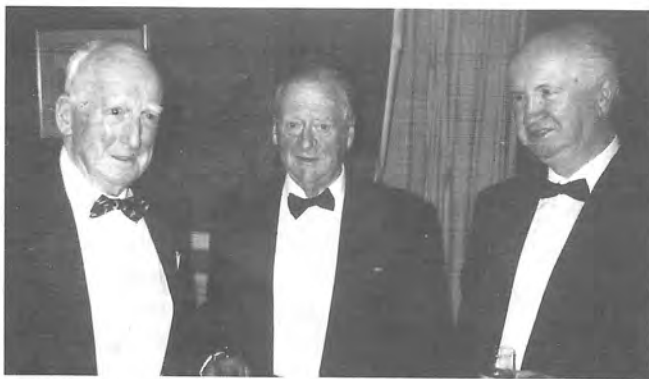
Tom Ambrose, Chairman, Board of Governors, Gerry Maher, Union President, Pat Hanratty and Michael McNamara.



Anticipating an enjoyable meal, some younger pastmen before the Dublin Branch Dinner.



'Father and Son' - Aidan and Declan McNulty.



Barney Sherry, Pádraig Mulcahy and John F. Walsh.



Outgoing Dublin Branch Chairman, Kieran Fitzgerald and Union President Gerry Maher.



Brian Hogan, 1992; Declan McNulty, 1992; and Maurice Phelan 1992.



Joe O'Shea, Manus Green, Liam O'Shea and Rob O'Shea.

London Dinner February 2002

The London Branch held a dinner in The Ivy, West Street, London on 15th February 2002. Guest of honour was retired Abbot, Colmcille O'Toole, while former Union President, Aidan McNulty was also in attendance.

Newly elected officers of the London Branch are, Kevin O'Flanagan, Chairman, P. Murphy, Secretary and Luke Brady, Treasurer.



Manus Moran, Ray Gibbons, Luke Brady, Gerard F. Keane and Kevin O'Flanagan.



At the London Branch Dinner on February 15th 2002.



John Yurky, outgoing Chairman London Branch and Dom Colmcille O'Toole.

Class of '76 Reunion

The 1970's may be often remembered for dodgy hairstyles and a doubtful dress sense but notwithstanding that more than half the class of 1976 put those inhibitions behind them to return for a 25th anniversary celebration in September 2001.

The passage of time was reflected in the realisation that only one of our class photos was in colour - our first four years were captured in grainy black and white images. We had also lost four of our classmates who had died in those intervening years - they were remembered at various times over the weekend.

For some it was their first return to CCR since that warm summer of 1976 and for them the changes in the college must have appeared considerable. For others who, during those years, have launched various assaults at the Abbot's Cup it was business as usual with hard luck stories and pitiful excuses the order of the day.

One of the night's biggest cheers greeted Johnny Coughlan who, despite a lengthy delay in Toronto due to restrictions following the September 11th attacks in the United States, managed to turn up in time to appear in the reunion photograph. We were delighted that Fr Peter, Brendan O'Rourke and Norman Davey could join us in Grant's Hotel to celebrate the reunion and join in some of the revelry.

Finally, our thanks to Katherine Donovan for all her help in the preparations and to Fr Nivard and Fr Enda Cunningham for celebrating Mass in the college chapel on Saturday evening.



Fr. Peter and Brendan O'Rourke with some stalwarts from the Class of 1976 Reunion in September 2001.



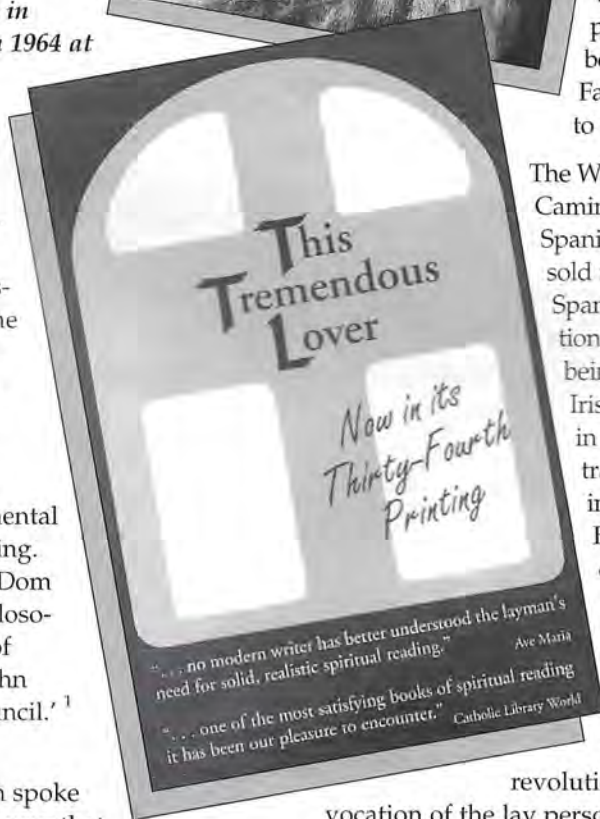
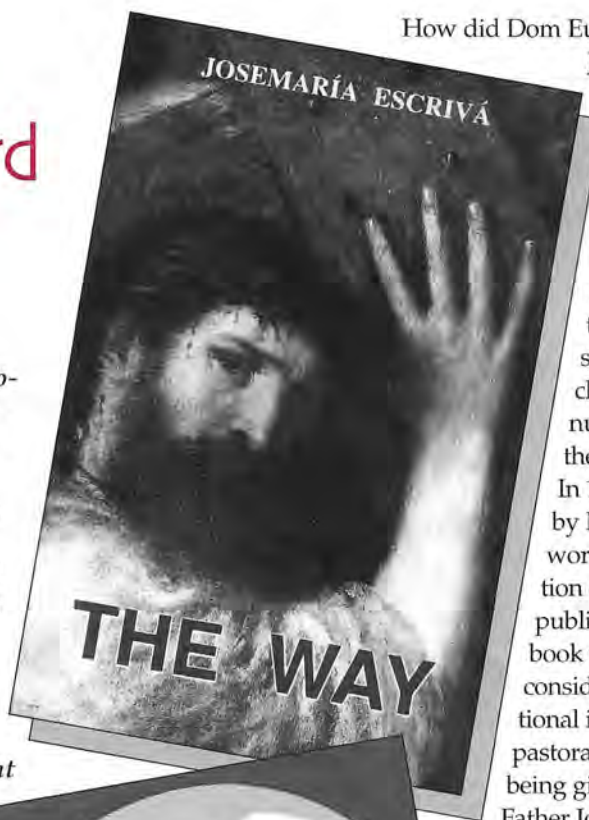
More happy faces from the Class of 1976!

Dom Eugene Boylan's Foreword to 'The Way'

Older past-students will have very fond memories of Dom Eugene Boylan. Younger past-students may only be vaguely familiar with his name. He is perhaps Mount St. Joseph's best known monk. Dom Eugene was born in Derry in 1904. His father sent him to his old alma mater, O'Connell's CBS in Dublin. He studied physics in UCD and won a scholarship which enabled him to study in Vienna. He studied for an M.Sc. in UCD after which he took up a lectureship there. He entered Mount St. Joseph's in 1931 and was elected Abbot in 1962. He died in a tragic car accident in 1964 at the relatively young age of 58.

Dom Eugene died while the Second Vatican Council was still in progress. The decrees of the council would not have earth-shattering effects on day-to-day life in Mount Saint Joseph's. The tranquil and demanding pace of monastic life would continue in much the same way as before. But, in due course there would be changes in liturgical practice and in other aspects of monastery life. However, some of the documents of Vatican II were radical in the way they articulated Church teaching on fundamental issues. Their effects would be far-reaching. In an article in *The Irish Times* in 1999 Dom Eugene was hailed as 'a writer and philosopher who adopted many of the views of Vatican II long before the great Pope John XXIII envisaged the holding of that council.'

In *Lumen Gentium*, or *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, the Church spoke about the universal call to holiness in a way that it had never done so before. Dom Eugene was already familiar with the writings of a contemporary of his who since 1928, had been preaching and writing about how lay people were called to be holy and to seek God in ordinary life, in their work and amongst their friends and family. He predicted that this man, Josemaría Escrivá, who founded Opus Dei in 1928 and who was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II in 1992, would leave his mark on the history of the twentieth century in a manner not incomparable with that left by St. Ignatius in the sixteenth century. The twentieth century has already passed and the centenary of the birth of Blessed Josemaría takes place this year in 2002, the high point of which will be his canonisation in St. Peter's Square in Rome on Sunday 6th October.



How did Dom Eugene come to know about Josemaría Escrivá? Certainly, he never met him. Well, the story goes as follows. Mercier Press had in 1945 published 'This Tremendous Lover', a book written by Dom Eugene. It is a well-known book and has gone through many reprints. It is still in popular demand as a classic text of spirituality. The number of references to it on the internet is testimony to this. In 1952, Dom Eugene was asked by Mercier Press to write a foreword for the first English translation of 'The Way', which they were publishing at the time. This little book was a collection of spiritual considerations, direct and conversational in style. It was based on the pastoral experiences and guidance being given to young people by Father Josemaría since his ordination to the priesthood in Spain in 1925.

The Way was the first English version of Camino which was first published in Spanish in 1939. By 1952 it had already sold more than 100,000 copies in Italian, Spanish, German and Portuguese editions. Various other translations were being prepared at the time. The first Irish edition, 'Bealach' was published in 1967. Over the years it has been translated into 42 languages, including for example Chinese, Arabic and Hebrew. A total of over four million copies have been sold. Translations to Norwegian, Tamil and Vietnamese will be available soon.

Dom Eugene was impressed by the success of this small book from foreign shores. But it was the revolutionary way that it expressed the vocation of the lay person that really caught his attention. The opening words of the book are original, inspiring and challenging: 'Don't let your life be barren. Be useful. Make yourself felt. Shine forth with the torch of your faith and your love... Set aflame all the ways of the earth with the fire of Christ that you bear in your heart. Would that your bearing and conversation were such that everyone who sees you or hears you speak could say: this man reads the life of Jesus Christ.' How could anyone not be influenced by these passionate words?

Dom Eugene came to know more about the author's work for the Church which impressed him even more. In the foreword to 'The Way' he wrote as follows: 'Monsignor

continued on next page...

Escrivá is a priest who has made history by his extraordinary work and influence among young intellectual laymen on the Continent. By his work - in which this book plays no small part - he has been responsible for a new organization of the spiritual life now recognized by Rome. The immediate importance of this book is the fact that it is concerned with the inspiring of laymen in the pursuit of perfection. It is hard to single out any need of the present time more important than the development and deepening of the spiritual life of all Catholics, especially that of laymen. Not only is it urgent that the laity be shown that the spiritual life in all its fullness is open to them, but it is also of capital importance that their ordinary work, professional and social activities, be integrated into their spiritual life and animated by it.'

Dom Eugene's own writings have made no small contribution to creating an awareness among lay people of their vocation to holiness. In the preface to his own book, 'This Tremendous Lover', which he says is an 'attempt to outline the love story of God and man' he specifically emphasises that he is writing for everybody, including the layman. It is somewhat ironic that he had to emphasise the fact that he was writing for lay people. However, the monastic tradition in its many and fruitful manifestations in the Church had for many centuries eclipsed the vocation of the layperson. Cardinal Newman, who had a great appreciation of the vocation of the laity was once asked by Bishop Ullathorne, "Who are the laity?" to which he famously replied 'that the Church would look foolish without them'.² The question typified a clerical mentality that prevailed in the Church until relatively recently.

Continuing his foreword to *The Way*, Dom Eugene complained: 'To suggest that all who seek God and who wish to be perfect must abandon the world and take refuge in the desert is to leave the whole field of human activity open to the influence of the highly organized and diabolically efficient enemies of God. The leaven of Christianity must work through the whole mass of society if society is to be saved. It is true that the secluded religious has his part to play, and a most important one at that. Our Saviour did not die for the sake of a select few, but for all men. To each of them he addresses the commandment: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy whole soul, with all thy mind and all thy strength.' He wills that all men should be saved and should love him.'

At the end of the Great Jubilee Year the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who has a great understanding and love for the vocation of the lay person expressed similar ideas: 'As the Council itself explained, this ideal of perfection must not be misunderstood as if it involved some kind of extraordinary existence, possible only for a few 'uncommon heroes' of holiness. The ways of holiness are many, according to the vocation of each individual. I thank the Lord that in these years he has enabled me to beatify and canonise a

large number of Christians, and among them many lay people who attained holiness in the most ordinary circumstances of life.'³

Those of us who are past pupils of Mount St. Joseph's have perhaps been presented with this great challenge of holiness in ordinary life in a clearer way than most. It's possible that we didn't realise it at the time or that an amount of dust has settled on ideals presented to us. But as laymen living in a busy world, we have to seek to be holy in the middle of this busy and fast-moving world. In the words of Blessed Josemaría. 'In the street, in your daily activities, in the midst of the bustle and hubbub of the city, in the concentrated calm of your professional work'.⁴



Apart from thinking that the vocation to holiness is only for the 'uncommon hero' another subtle and convenient excuse that fits in well with the secular mentality of today would be to think that to practise one's faith and to seek holiness in ordinary life is in some way to be less than a man. Dom Eugene comments in the foreword; 'Living in the world one must be a man to be a saint.' We are all aware that strength of character is perhaps needed more than ever today to practise our faith and pass it on to the next generation, to present the attractiveness of holiness in everyday life as an exciting, challenging and realisable goal to our own children, colleagues and friends.

Dom Eugene Boylan, with the clear vision of a man who was himself inspired by a deep love for God, saw that the importance of this book, *The Way*, was that 'it both inspires ideals complete with that divine purpose, and helps to their practical realization.' Hopefully, the centenary of the birth of Blessed Josemaría this year, during which many events will be organised in Ireland and around the world will help inspire many more lay people to be 'contemplatives in the middle of the world.' Dom Eugene, whose own centenary will occur in two years time in 2004, would surely approve.

David Mc Donagh (CCR 1977 - 1980)

David is a Chartered Accountant by profession. Over the last number of years, as Director of Ely University Centre, a centre of the Opus Dei Prelature, he has been organising activities for university students and graduates.

¹ Fintan M. Tallon, 'Spirit moving people of God to renew church', article in *The Irish Times*, July 27, 1999

² Conversation with Bishop Ullathorne, quoted in *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, C.S. Dessain, ed., Vol XIX, London 1969, p. 141.

³ Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte - At the beginning of the new Millennium*, para 31



Pastman Niall Rafferty on winning yacht in the America's Cup Jubilee Regatta

CCR past man Niall Rafferty Class of 1984. Brother of Brian Rafferty (Class of 1978), Brother of Eoin Rafferty (Class of 1988) and Son of Pat Rafferty (Class of 1952).

In the recent America's Cup Jubilee Regatta. I competed onboard the sailing yacht 'Extra-Beat' which is a German Frers design 118 feet in length. It is owned by American billionaire John McGaw. Skipped by Pascal Pellat-Finet and our helmsman for the event was Dennis Conner (Team Stars and Stripes). We competed under the flag of the New York Yacht Club.

My position was Bowman responsible for all activity at the front end of the boat as well as all activity up the mast. At every start I direct the helmsman to the best starting position and also become his eyes as I see all that is happening well before anybody else back along the boat.

My wife Emily was also a crew on 'Extra-Beat'. She was one of the mainsail trimmers and has competed internationally for Britain. We met competing at an event on the East coast of USA (Newport, Rhode Island). We are at present living in the British Virgin Islands but will move back to our home in Florida in October.

Niall A. Rafferty

Niall is too modest to say that as the race concluded Niall's yacht was so far ahead of the field that they were able to cruise into Southampton and invite his neighbour Richard Branson to be their special guest on board.



ATTENTION PASTMEN!

Are you receiving the "**Roscrea Review**" twice a year, posted directly to your present address? If not, or if the "Review" is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen.

The details below will also help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions.

Name : _____ Year Entered : _____ Year Left : _____

Home Address : _____ Occupation : _____

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Home Phone : _____ Work Phone : _____

Mobile : _____ Fax : _____ Email : _____

College Contact Numbers : **Phone** : (0505) 21045 / 23344 **Fax** : (0505) 22066

Email : mtjoseph@iol.ie **Website** : <http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph>

WRITE FOR THE REVIEW! Send us a piece on your experiences, travel etc. We want to hear from you!

Obituaries

John McGowan (CCR 1963-68), died on Holy Saturday, 30th March 2002 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Noreen and 3 children, his mother, brother and sisters. Originally from Mohill, Co. Leitrim, he joined the then Northern Bank and spent many years in the South Circular Road branch in Dublin before moving to Cork and starting his own retail business in Wilton S.C. and also at Dennehy's Cross. A big rugby supporter and former player at Lansdowne RFC and later at Dolphin RFC, John was always a sure bet for a spare ticket for the internationals. This February was the first time in his short life that he did not attend the Bull Sales in Carrick-on-Shannon where he acted as Auctioneer's teller to his later father Harry. John will be sadly missed by his family and very wide circle of friends.

Two members of the Community went to their eternal reward recently. These were **Bro. Robert Sunderland** (Sept. 2001) and **Bro. Ignatius Hogan** (Jan. 2002.)

Eddie Byrne, Kilkenny father of Eamon and Edgar, died recently.R.I.P.

Gerry Hogan, Parnell Street, Thurles (formerly of Cloughjordan) died suddenly on January 15th 2002. Gerry was a brother of Fr. Flannan of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey.

Frank Molony (1922-28) died 30th August 2001 aged 89. We received a lovely letter from his widow Una, shortly after his death. Incidentally, Frank started in the College at 10 years of age, having come over from London with his brother P.J. (d. 1995)

Frank Mulcahy, late of Stillorgan, Dublin who was in CCR in the 1940s died recently after a long illness.

P.J. Mullane, Newcastle West (CCR 1920-25) died in December 2001. He was grandfather of Darren Mullane (Third Year.)

Gerry Slattery (1954-59) from Gorey (originally from Co. Limerick) died suddenly last November, days after his 60th birthday. President of the IAVI in 1998/99, he gave a courageous speech to the institute's national conference in which he reminded estate agents of their responsibility towards purchasers as well as vendors and warned them against the temptation towards greed at a time when profits were at an all-time high. He excelled at sports in CCR and later played on the wing for Garryowen RFC. He was All-Ireland 60-yard champion, was a founder member and first captain of Gorey RFC and was a former captain of Courtown G.C. He was also hugely interested in horse racing and had a long association with the Island Hunt. To his widow Kay, sons Niall, Shane and Gearóid (all CCR pastmen) and his daughters Ciara and Eimear we extend our sincere sympathy.

Many tributes were paid in the national media to **Eoin Ryan** (CCR 1935-37), former Senator and businessman who died late last year. For someone who never contested a local or general election, he was a huge political figure during his 30 years in the Seanad, never more so than when he was director of elections for Fianna Fáil in 1977. The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern described him as having an importance far greater than his official role. The son of a founding member of Fianna Fáil, Dr. James Ryan, the former Finance Minister, he was always likely to be involved in politics. In fact he had three careers - politics, business and law, having been called to the Bar in 1945 and the Inner Bar in 1963. As well as becoming Chairman of New Ireland Assurance Company, which was co-founded by his father, he had a wide range of business interests and was on the board of several important companies. His was an independent voice in Fianna Fáil and he spoke out against the leadership in the 1980s, and refused to oppose the Anglo - Irish Agreement negotiated by the then Fine Gael - Labour Coalition Government in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Joan, daughter Dearbhail, and sons Mark, Jim and Eoin, the Minister of State for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, all Pastmen. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Colm Tierney, Roscommon (CCR 1961-63) died last September.

Alo Tynan died on 9th May 2001.

Roscrea Golf Club Management Committee



CCR was well represented on the Management Committee of Roscrea Golf Club in 2001. This photo was taken at Pat Sheedy's Captain's Prize night.

Left to right: John Cahill, President (CCR 1951-56), Marcelline Cody Vice-President (Teacher), Evelyn Marrinan, Lady Captain (Parent), Pat Sheedy, Captain (Teacher), G.P. Maher, Hon. Secretary (Teacher and Union President).

The prize is a beautiful beech coffee table which was crafted by Pastman and current parent Paul Moore (1967-72) from Killenard.

ABBOT'S CUP 2001

Last September 15th saw one of the biggest ever entries for the Abbot's Cup Golf Competition. On a fine day, there were lots of excellent scores, but the feature of the day was the presence of three members of the O'Shea family from Kilkenny in the prizes, following up their mother's excellent win of the Windle ladies trophy the previous June.

The Abbot's Cup went to Rob O'Shea on 43 points. It was lovely, too to see Gerry Maher presenting the prize for second place to his brother Eamon (Ned), thankfully recovered after a lengthy illness.

RESULTS: ABBOT'S CUP

1st - Rob O'Shea

Kilkenny Golf Club - 43 points

2nd - Eamon Maher

Trim Golf Club - 40 points

3rd - Eoin O'Donnell

Roscrea Golf Club - 38 points (back 9)

4th - Enda Cunningham

Maynooth - 38 points (last 6 holes)

5th - Joe O'Shea

Kilkenny Golf Club - 38 points

6th - John Lawlor

Limerick Golf Club - 37 points (back 9)

7th - Hugh McDonnell

Roscrea Golf Club - 37 points

8th - Paul O'Shea

Kilkenny Golf Club - 36 points

VISITORS PRIZES

1st - Mike Maloney

40 points (back 9)

2nd - Donnacha Cody

40 points

3rd - Ann Daly

39 points



'Don't let it fall', Union President Gerry Maher presents the prize for 2nd place to his brother Eamon.



President of Roscrea Golf Club John Cahill with Abbot's Cup winner Rob O'Shea and Union President, Gerry Maher.



'Masters of the Hurdlers' Liam Spooner (1962-68) with Mick Sherry (1964-69) at the Abbot's Cup



John Lawlor, Eamon McGowan and Brendan Hyland from the Class of 1969.

What a Year in Rugby!

In September 1996, sixty odd first years entered Roscrea and almost immediately were being put through their paces on the rugby pitch by Mr. Gerry Hayes and Housemasters, John Donnellon and William Guiry. There was the usual mixture of athletic prodigies and the less gifted, but with what could only be described as almost professional style training the U-13 team embarked on a glorious winning run that saw them defeat every school they played. The hurling team under the guidance of Mr. Brendan Mulcahy enjoyed a similar run of victories before being defeated at the penultimate stage of the Leinster Juvenile Championship. Despite these promising signals no one could have realised that only five years later, Senior Hurling and Rugby teams would record sensational victories to bring rare pieces of silverware back to the College.

Last September, the Senior Rugby team marked their return to the Leinster Senior League after an absence of three years by defeating Wesley College and Pres. Bray rather easily at home, but lost to King's Hospital and St. Paul's away, and scraped through to the knock-out stages of the competition on points' difference. Kilkenny were overwhelmed in a facile quarter-final victory (36-5), providing some revenge for last year's bitter Cup defeat at their hands. Newbridge were defeated 14-6 in the semi-final in Tullamore after a tough battle to qualify for the final for the first time since 1995.

On Wednesday 6th December, the League Final between Roscrea and CBC, Monkstown took place in Donnybrook. Left winger Ciarán Rouse crossed the line in the first half for a try that was duly converted by Conor Phelan. CBC started the second half in a much livelier fashion and soon touched down in the right corner. The conversion was missed as were two kickable penalties before a penalty in front of the posts sent Monkstown into an 8-7 lead as the game entered injury time. Monkstown looked to have the match won but a try-saving tackle by replacement fullback Andy Smyth proved to be the turning point of the match. Deep into stoppage time, Roscrea were awarded a penalty which Conor Phelan slotted between the posts with the last kick of the game to end an enthralling encounter between two finely balanced sides.

And so to the Cups. Three years without winning a game in the Senior Cup were put aside with a most emphatic 46-0 drubbing of St. Columba's. This was followed up by a more laboured 31-8 victory over Skerries C.C. Who cared? Roscrea were suddenly in the quarter-final and an impressive crowd turned out on 18th February at Donnybrook to see an enthralling contest against High School, which ebbed and flowed until a superb try by Conor Phelan put the game beyond doubt, with a final score of 21-11. Meanwhile, the Junior Rugby

team under the astute eye of Gerry Hayes and former Munster player Seamus Dennison reached their quarter-final also, defeating St. Paul's 17-0 on the way, but were comprehensively outplayed by eventual Cup-Winners, St. Michael's.

Senior Cup Semi-Final day, Monday 4th March saw Lansdowne Rd. turned into a sea of black and white (both teams' colours!) - with Roscrea students, staff, parents and pastmen seeming to occupy most of the West Stand side. The game was keenly contested and turned on a superb Belvedere try reminiscent of the one scored by Brian O'Driscoll against Scotland at the same venue, two days earlier. Roscrea fought gallantly to the end, but were unable to breach the solid Belvedere defence.

When the achievements of the Hurlers (documented elsewhere) are taken into account, it has truly been an epic sporting year - arguably the best in the history of the College. Our sincere thanks to all who helped make it happen.

*Steven Miller - 6th Year Student
(additional material by Tom Hinton and Pat Hanratty)*

Class of 1961 40 Year Reunion August 2001

We made a complete Weekend out of our Reunion - some of us had come a very long way! The informal Friday night was a good idea as it gave us time to get over the shock of reunion and struggling recognition after 40 years. Many were difficult to recognise and to put a name on at first encounter but as they spoke to you the person and the mannerisms all came back and by the Sunday it was like unto old times, but eerie.

As for the monks, Frs. Eanna and Ciaran are in great form. We had Frs. Nivard, Peter and Eanna for Mass on Sat afternoon, then a small reception in the Rec Hall (area and stage unchanged). The new Abbot, Dom Lawrence was present. Joe Buckley and Tim Lane. had put some photos and Vexillum (May 1960, our 5A) articles on display and some interesting slides.

At the official Dinner on Sat evening Dom Colmcille didn't look a day older. Speeches by himself, Tom Garvey, Johnny Shanahan (erudite) and Fred (Fr. Fred Pelly, then Dean of Discipline, now in Moone) were outstanding. Fred told some great stories which brought back many memories!

The whole weekend was a worthy effort and a highlight for me. Ger Moloney and Joe Doherty etc did a great job. Well worth making the trip!

Paul R

NEWS OF PASTMEN...

DANIEL BRENNAN, (CCR 1989/'94) is getting married in Rome in April 2002 to Lucia Harnett from Limerick.

LUKE BRENNAN, (CCR 1996/'99) is currently studying Aeronautical Engineering in the University of Limerick

COLIN BYRNE, (CCR 1986-91) got engaged to Caroline Deehan recently.

GERRY CASEY has recently opened CASEY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT at 6, The Crescent, Limerick.

MARTIN CROWE (CCR 1982-87) From Carrigmore near Doon, Co. Limerick, the holder of a B.Agr.Sc. (Hons.) degree, he has recently taken over from his father the running of the family farm. The farm is home to the Dunum (Latin for Doon?) herd, one of Limerick's finest and best known Friesian herds.

TIERNAN DOLAN In the Spring 2001 Review, we mentioned that Tiernan had been named Longford Person of the Year, 2000. Recently, he was the recipient of one of the prestigious ASTI achievement awards for his dedicated work for the third world charity GOAL.

GAVIN DUFFY (1994-2000) Always in the news! In recognition of his outstanding performances for Galwegians, Connacht and the Irish U-21 team, he was named Mayo Rugby Sports' Star of the Year for 2001.

ALAN KAVANAGH Is currently studying Agriculture in Gurteen College, where he is, according to one local newspaper, fully immersed in all aspects of college life, particularly in the sports' area.

KEVIN KEEGAN (1983-88) now works in human resources with the Kerry Group

GERARD LYNE (1963) Won the NUI Historical Research Prize of £2000 (presented every three years) for 2001 for his book on the Lansdowne Estate in Kerry under W.S. Trench (1849-72).

BRIAN MCBREEN (1985-90) from Tuam was married recently to Joanne Mulroe, also from Tuam in Tullycross, Connemara. The reception in Renvyle House Hotel was attended by many of his CCR classmates.

M.J. NOLAN His political career is back on track, having recently won a Seanad by-election for the vacancy caused by Sen. Tom Hayes' victory in last year's South Tipperary D-il by-election. M.J. was a Fianna Fáil T.D. from 1982 to 1997.

HARVEY O'BRIEN (CCR 1983-88) was awarded a PhD in film studies by University College Dublin in April 2000. His thesis was a history of Irish documentary film. He is now doing Post-Doctoral Research at UCD's Centre for Film Studies. He was married last year to Catherine Fields.

TONY O'GRADY, (CCR 1980-85) married recently, he is a brother of Michael who is a solicitor in Waterford.

FR MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN (CCR 1977/'82) from Co. Clare, has recently returned from working in Sudan with the White Fathers. He has been working in the Sudan since 1994. He is currently on Sabbatical, and having spent six months working in the Lebanon in a Orthodox Monastery is now heading to Rome to continue his studies of Arabic and Islamic Religions.

MAURICE PHELAN (1987-92) Has recently become engaged to Lea Devitt, of Greystones.

PETER POWER and ANTHONY WHELAN (both CCR 1980-85) Peter and Anthony are both working in the office of Chris Patten, European Commissioner in Brussels. Peter advises Mr. Patten, whom he describes as terrific to work for, on his dealings with the European Parliament and on issues such as agriculture, regional policy and the environment.

AUSTIN VAUGHAN (CCR 1962-67) now works as a Psychologist for the Department of Education and Science.

• NOTICE OF AGM •

Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union
Saturday, 18th May 2002

The Central Committee of Cistercian College, Roscrea Union has scheduled this year's AGM for 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 19th May - the eve of the College Annual Sports' Day.

Fr. Peter Garvey, College President has kindly invited all present to a Reception and Dinner after the Meeting. If you would like to stay overnight, the College will be glad to welcome you on Sunday, 20th May for Sports' Day. Overnight accommodation can be arranged locally.

Please confirm your attendance and accommodation requirements in good time to:-

KATHERINE DONOVAN
College Development Officer

Tel.: (0505) 23344/21045 Fax : (0505) 22066
Email: mtjoseph@iol.ie

PASTMEN PRESENT IN NUMBERS...

At the Wanderers V UCC match in the All Ireland League Division II on 5th January 2002 a fascinating collection of Pastmen were present.

- **Cathal Bredin** was there in his capacity as **President of UCC Rugby Club.**
- **Niall Culliton** is current **Captain of Wanderers** but was not actually playing due to injury.
- CCR provided two **Members of the Wanderers Pack** - **Robert Cole** as Prop & **Pat McCarthy** in the **Second Row.**
- A very trim **David O'Keeffe** was playing at Centre.
- The CCR connection was completed by the presence of **Gerard P. Maher**, who was there in his role as **Referee Assessor.**



Pictured at Tarra Warra are left to right: John Thompson (1990-95), Frank Thompson (1963-68), Fr. Abbot David OCSO, Justin Kelly (1992-97) and Stephen Thompson (1991-97).

Pastmen visit Tarra Warra

Dom Colmcille wasn't the only pastman to visit Tarra Warra in 2001! On 5th July last, four pastmen, Frank Thompson (1963-68), his sons John (1990-95) and Stephen (1991-97) and Justin Kelly (1992-97) took the taxi ride from the centre of Melbourne which they were visiting with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Rugby team.

They were greeted by Brother Bernard, Fr. Steele and Fr. Kevin a former Abbot of the Monastery which was founded by monks from Roscrea. They were joined, later by Fr. David the present Abbot. Great hospitality was extended to the Pastmen. They were shown around the Abbey, invited to attend vespers and later driven back to their hotel in Melbourne. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Back home, John (2nd Med.), Stephen (1st Med.) and Justin (4th Med.) are advancing in their studies. Stephen is the current Captain of the R.C.S.I. Rugby team.

THE MIKADO AT CCR

This year's Musical was the Gilbert and Sullivan favourite, *The Mikado* staged in the College back in November. Stars of the show were Aodhan Glynn as Nanki Pooh, (Son and heir of the Mikado; but disguised as a Wandering Minstrel), Ralph Keane as Ko Ko, (The Lord High Executioner), Andrew Fogarty as Pooh Bah (Lord High Everything Else), Nick McCarthy (Yum Yum whom Nanki Pooh wants to marry), Joseph Quinn (The Mikado, and Emperor of Japan), James Butler (Katisha - the elderly and unattractive lady whom the Mikado wants Nanki Pooh to marry) and William O'Connell and Henry Hughes as Pitti Sing and Peep Bo - Yum Yum's friends who with her made up the "Three Little Maids."

The show was produced by Brian Merriman with Frankie Bergin as Musical Director, ably assisted by Eoghan O'Donnell. It was a resounding success, continuing the College's excellent musical tradition. There was great participation by Junior and Senior Chorus, Orchestra, Stage Crew, Lighting and Sound Crews, Set Design and Costume Managers, too numerous to mention individually.

Congratulations to all involved - to next year's production!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTMEN ON RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

The President and staff of CCR would like to congratulate four of the college's Pastmen who were awarded University Scholarships this year.

David O'Connell from Tralee and **Kevin Doody** from Bruff, Co. Limerick were awarded Entrance Exhibition Awards by Trinity College, Dublin.

John Lee from Ballysheedy, Co. Limerick and **Brian Harty** from Naas were awarded Entrance Scholarships to U.C.D.



Pictured at the 2001 AGM of the Athletic Support Group, front row left to right: Barry Gorman, Aidan McNulty, Fr. Peter Garvey (President) and Tom Ambrose, (Chairman of the Board of Governors). Back row left to right: Gerry Hayes, Ollie Byrne, Frank Thompson, Stephen Thompson and Noel Windle.

CAREERS EVENING A SUCCESS

Friday 8th February saw the re-introduction of a Careers' Evening for 5th and 6th year students. 36 Pastmen attended as advisors in various careers. The feedback from the students was extremely positive.

They feel that it was one of the most beneficial programmes available to them in the College. An add-on benefit has been a higher profile for the Union in the eyes of Senior Students and increased interaction between Pastmen and the College.

CCR Union Calendar 2002

Friday, 17th May Midland Branch Function

Venue : Tullamore Golf Club & Tullamore Court Hotel

Contact : Frank Thompson (0506) 21710

Tee Times available from 14.45 to 16.30

Saturday, May 18th Union AGM

Sunday, May 19th Sports Day at CCR

Thursday, June 6th The Matt Hyland Perpetual Golf Trophy The Windle Ladies Perpetual Golf Cup

Venue : Milltown Golf Club

Contact : Ollie Byrne Tel : 045-520633/086 339 9577

Saturday, July 13th HSG Group Golf Classic

Venue : Roscrea Golf Club

Contact : Gerard Mc Carthy (086) 2569395

Niall Doogue (0508) 81241

Ann Mc Intyre (0902) 57171

Joe Connolly (091) 767272

Saturday, Sept. 14th Lord Abbot's Cup Golf Competition

Venue : Roscrea Golf Club

Tee Times available from 9.00 a.m.

(All Tee Times must be pre-booked)

Lord Abbot's Cup Golf Competition *continued*

Entry Fee Golf (including Green Fees) €30

Contact : Gerry Hayes / Aileen Spillane

Phone (0505) 23344 or 087 2224253 Fax (0505) 22066

20 Year Reunion (Class of 1982)

Contact : Andrew Cody 045-432198

ajcody@reidystafford.com

Schedule : Abbot's Cup Golf Competition (Optional)

Reunion Mass in College Chapel : 5.00 p.m.

Sherry Reception in College : 6.00 p.m.

Reunion Photographs in Grants' : 8.15 p.m.

Sunday Sept. 15th Union Day at CCR

Union Mass @ 11.00 a.m. in the Abbey Church

Central Committee Meeting @ 12.30 p.m.

Buffet Lunch in Senior Refectory 1.30 p.m.

Past V Present Rugby Match @ 3.00 p.m.

Past V Present Hurling Match @ 3.00 p.m.

Saturday Nov. 2nd West Coast Pastmen (USA)

Dinner - San Francisco

Friday Nov. 22nd New York Dinner

Langans', Manhattan

Details on both events from Noel McCarthy,

Tel. (203) 287-8631

Email cpnoel@sprintmail.com Fax (203) 287 2408