

# ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 50

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Autumn 1987

## ROSCREA REVIEW — AUTUMN 1987

As usual the College opens on the first Tuesday in September. The first event of the year worth noting is the 5th Year Seminar which will be conducted by Dr. V. Moloney and the theme is, "From Rights to Responsibility." The Retreat — which nowadays is broken up into class sections begins for the Seniors on October 12th. There is talk of a Quarter-Term Break at the beginning of October . . . . to help the new boys adjust!

Union Day for Past Pupils is on the first Sunday of October, which falls this year on the October 4th. The timetable for that day is set out elsewhere in the Review.

The 6th year classes have their "trial interviews" on 20th November. This is a most highly organized and useful exercise.

Then on the 22nd November, 2nd year have a seminar conducted by Mr. B. Broderick.

The Career Guidance Workshop is held on the 28th November. And simultaneously with all that, study, classes, games and preparation for the opera goes on. The dress-rehearsal will be staged on 13th December. There is a special show on 18th December for Parents and Pastmen. The Recreation Hall has been refurbished and a new stage built, so we are expecting great things this year . . . . and Christmas Holidays will begin on 18th December.

The 18th December is also the day on which the Union Gold Medal is presented to whoever gets the first place in the College in the Intermediate exam of the previous year. This custom has been in existence since the foundation of the Union in 1930 and it is still one of the most appreciated distinctions to be conferred on a student. Although it was not mentioned in his obituary last year, Michael Francis O'Meara was the first student to win this award. While on the subject of awards it may be of interest to you to see one of the most outstanding is the "Sherry Cup"; provided for in his will by the late Dr. Jack Sherry, to be presented to the best instrumental musician in the school each year. The competition was to be held in public in the College and judged by outside adjudicators. Last year it was won by Ciaran Coughlan, on the piano. Ciaran is from Streamstown, Roscrea.

"The Haugh Cup" is presented to the student in 5th year who has made the best endeavour and most progress in the Science group subjects — i.e. Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry. The 1987 award was made to Sean Bredin from Oranmore.

This trophy was presented by Mr. Thomas Haugh of Athlone, President of the Cistercian College Union from 1972 to '74.

The Dr. Gerard McCarthy Cup is new, as recorded in the last issue of the "Review", and it is presented for achievement in English in 5th year. The 1961 Class added another to the list when they presented this year the "Dermot Twohig Memorial Trophy" for drama. Edward Russell of Kilkenny who won the Gold Medal last year took the McCarthy Cup this year.

Then there is the President's Prize which goes to the best Debater. It was won this year by James Haughey from Waterford.

To encourage and develop the Art of Public Speaking, Ignatius Houlihan has a series of gold medals struck for the Seniors. This year they were won by Mark Ledwidge, Mark Lucy and Michael O'Grady. A similar silver medal is awarded to the Juniors and it was won by Kenneth Bredin. "The Irish Cup" as the name implies is presented to the student who each year contributes most to the promotion of the Irish language and culture in the school. The idea and trophy came from the late Abbot, Dom Camillus Claffey. This year it was won by John Bates of

Clonaslee. To encourage debating and public speaking among the juniors, teams and competitions are organized in 3rd year and 2nd year classes and Diplomas awarded for proficiency. Mr. Eddie O'Sullivan is an enthusiastic promoter of this work.

All the above are domestic activities, but the skills achieved are brought out into the public arena from time to time, and the fruits are gathered. The All Ireland "Muintir na Tire" debating competition was won by our Senior Team this year: Paul O'Shea (Captain), Pat Gleeson, Harvey O'Brien. Mr. Liam Maher was the coach.

The Gael Linn Munster Championship was won by the Senior Debating Team: Mark Ledwidge, Edward Russell, Pádraig O Máille. Mr. Brendan O'Rourke was the coach.

In the field of Athletics they have a whole range of their own, but the two most outstanding this year were the "All Round Cup" for seniors which was won by Simon Archer of Portmarnock; and the "Coaches Trophy" won by James McCormack of Pallasgreen, and Stephen Crehan of Portarlington.

## Memories and Retirement

Shanakill, where I was born and reared, is only about 7 miles from Mt. St. Joseph monastery, (we never referred to the place as an 'Abbey'). When I was very young, my father and mother brought us regularly in the horse-and-trap to last Mass on a Sunday. Afterwards we met Fr. Boniface (Ryan) who was a great friend of the family. Later a neighbour's child, Bro. Malachy Maher, became the focal point of these visits.

When I was nine, I developed a disease of my leg (akin to woodworm in timber) and I became a frequent visitor to Fr. Paul Rabbitte (who was said 'to have the cure'). He didn't cure me and it later took three bouts of surgery to remove the osteomelitis. At that time I was at Maynooth College. Three operations within two years wore down my health and led directly to my departure from the seminary. So it was, I turned to teaching as a career. And so it was I arrived at Roscrea College as a teacher in September 1950. I knew nothing about the college but I knew a lot about the monastery.

It nearly didn't work. I had serious discipline problems with 5th years and 6th years. They tested me. By the spring of '51 I had decided to move elsewhere. (Jobs were plentiful

enough, then). Yet by Easter I knew I could control them. I knew I would never again be intimidated by them. Don't ask me how this change came about. I have never been able to explain it. But I knew that while I would have trouble with individual students, I would be in control of my classes.

So I stayed to work with and for the monks. I am deeply grateful for the friendships my family and I have bonded with the Cistercians over those years.

Some events highlighted these friendships. In October '51 my wife Maisie hovered on the edge of eternity for more than a week — kidney-failure during and after a still-born baby. My family still claim Fr. Eugene Boylan (later Abbot) cured her. True it is that it was the night after his visit to the hospital that her kidneys decided to function. The prayers of the community certainly helped her when, in a coma, she was unable to help herself.

In '58 I had my own particular 'dark night of the soul'. For months my world was falling to pieces. The monks rallied to my support; helped out with my classes until eventually I recovered my equilibrium.

In '64 my daughter Fiona underwent massive surgery; and in the weeks of anxiety which followed the operation, the monks' prayers were poured out on her behalf. She still remembers the pride she felt when the Lord Abbot (Dom Colmille O'Toole) was announced as a visitor. She also remembers the book he brought her. Fr. Emmanuel (for long



a loyal family friend) also visited her (with a Heidi book under his 'oxter') and wept when he left her.

The above are only high points of loving friendships over the years. The friendships were not confined to crises in my life. They were a daily reality.

The grandest gesture came on June 5 last. I had decided I had lost my zest for teaching and would retire a year earlier than I need. Rody Ryan retired at the same time. The two families were invited to concelebrated Mass at the College chapel. Fr. Kevin (President) arranged a beautiful liturgy. Fr. Gabriel played the organ and the singing was magnificent. Ten monks concelebrated with Dom Colm-cille. Ailish Ryan read the psalms and Deirdre the bidding prayers. Fiona and Eamon (Maher) did the readings. Rody and I brought the offertory gifts. The atmosphere of the ceremony has been captured on video — an ideal momento of an unforgettable occasion.

Fr. Kevin, Sr. Anthony and Sr. Rita organised a superb meal. The Abbot in his homily had said so many nice things about Rody and myself that I felt the eulogies were over. But no. Fr. Emmanuel, Fr. Ciaran, Fr. Bonaventure, Fr. Peter, Fr. Gabriel — each made his own particular contribution. The speeches were witty and pithy but above all, sincere. Deirdre Ryan and Gerry (Maher) spoke of their own reactions to the evening and their feelings about the monastery; Gerry also about the college. Rody and I replied as best we could. It was an evening to remember, a 'gaudeamus' for the years of friendship and co-operation.

What of the future? I can only speak for myself. I anticipate the freedom to write and read, play golf, tend my garden, save my turf. I plan to improve my insights into the bible under the expert tutelage of Fr. Nivard, our prior. I hope to see our grandchildren grow in knowledge and love. I trust that Maisie and I will grow old with dignity and patience and affection. I pray we will die in God's grace. What more can one expect at 64?

*Liam S. Maher*

P.S. I intend in later issues to recall some of the teachers and students I have worked with since 1950.

## Reception for Conor Brady



*Civic Reception for Conor Brady in Sligo. Freddie Wehrly (Scott Frederick) 1961, and his wife, Michael Keohane from Easky who organized a most enjoyable stay for the party in Ballincar House Hotel. More prominently in the picture are from the left: Tom Ambrose, President of P.P.U.; Mrs. Brady; Conor Brady, 1966; Mrs. Ambrose; Tony McLoughlin 1966 – Mayor of Sligo 1987; and Noel Windle 1951. They were joined later in the evening by other past men and their wives for a most enjoyable Dinner.*

The Dublin Branch marked the elevation of Conor Brady to the editorship of the Irish Times with a dinner in his honour at Fitzwilliam Club in Dublin last February. Old school and union friends and their wives made up the limited number that could be accommodated in the private dining room of Noel Windle's alter domicilium to pay tribute to Conor and his wife, Ann.

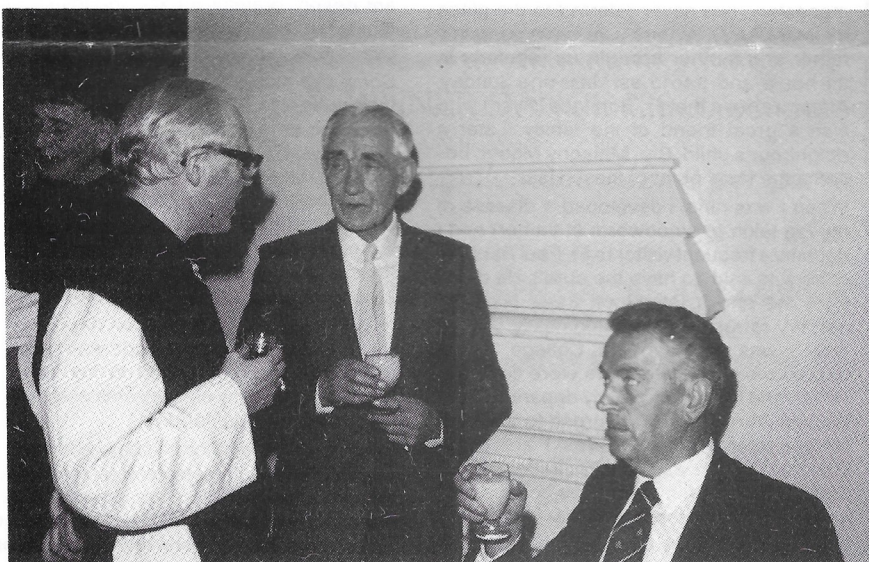
After a splendid meal, our President, Tom Ambrose, spoke of the pride and pleasure that all Roscrea men felt at Conor's appointment and how we basked in the glow of his achievement. He wished him a long and successful tenure in the most prestigious position in Irish journalism.

Conor has always been regarded as one of the best after-dinner speakers that have come out of Roscrea and on this occasion he had the choke out full. He produced a couple of old Vexillums from under his exquisitely tailored jacket and regaled us by plucking the most delicious morsels from this honest journal, bringing us back to our own meanderings in the groves of Academe. Really, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

He spoke very warmly of Fr. Patrick, who held sway in Roscrea during his time there, and how he epitomised the broadness of outlook and the intelligent adaptability of the Cistercians in running the school. That Fr. Patrick was an accessory to the non-development of the Brady athleticism was a matter of no regret to Conor, although one wonders was journalism's gain rugby's loss, for he still retains the outward appearance of the outside half, although a little less svelte than of yore.

Fr. Dermot McCarthy, a man who once, when caught up in one of his Indiana Jones-like adventures, beat Nijinsky's record for jumping in the air and twiddling the feet — with I.R.A. bullets being the stimulus, provided musical accompaniment to a few troubadours of varying talent who followed the example of Gus Martin who, immediately following Conor's few words, leapt to his feet and ripped a couple of songs off his chest to the acclamation of all.

If I depict a night of gaiety and mirth, then I don't exaggerate too much. It was a unique occasion to honour a distinguished son of Roscrea and the words spoken that evening — the serious and sincere leavened with the yeast of humour — were surely a reflection of the man himself.



*At the college reception on the occasion of their retirement. From the right: Liam Maher, Rody Ryan chatting to the Lord Abbot.*



# Class '61 Reunion

On Saturday, 11th April, 1987 thirty five members of the class of '61 gathered at the College to mark their 25th Anniversary year. It was organised by Joe Doherty, Jack Fennell, John Joyce and Gerry Moloney.

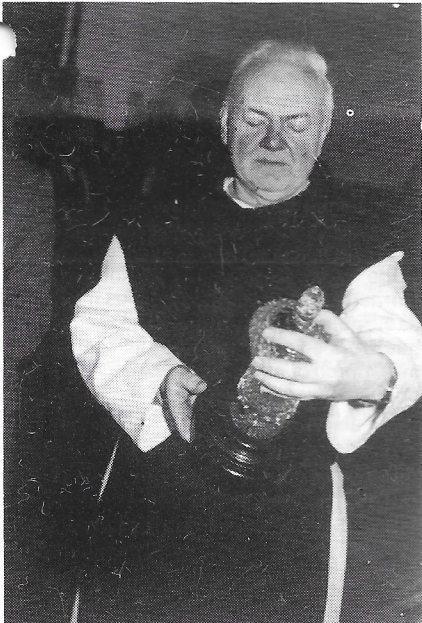
A feature of the reunion was the presentation to the college of the Dermot Tuohy Memorial Trophy. In making the presentation Gerry Moloney thanked Fr. Kevin and the College for the wide education and experiences, which the class had received twenty five years ago and which had equipped all of them to face the world with confidence.

In recalling their Roscrea days, one particular memory stood out for the class, and that was the three Shakespeare productions, culminating with *Hamlet* in the final year of the class. It was generally agreed by all who were fortunate to see the productions that they marked not only a very courageous step by the College, but also were of an excellent standard.

The driving force behind the plays was the producer, Dermot Tuohy and Gerry quoted Dermot's contribution to one of the programmes:

*"In particular I want to say a very sincere word of thanks to all the boys - both past and present - who have trod these boards under my direction - as well as the youthful stage-managers, electricians and effects-men, who have contributed to the success of these shows. It has been the hard work, enthusiasm and loyalty of the boys that has made the whole thing possible - and my visits to Roscrea so enjoyable"*.

Gerry noted that these comments were typical of the unselfish nature of Dermot Tuohy, who had died unfortunately a few months earlier. Dermot had never sought or possessed material rewards in his lifetime. The class of '61 had considered it fitting therefore, to ensure that Dermot Tuohy would be remembered in Roscrea by presenting a Perpetual Trophy for annual competition among the students of the College, for artistic achievement.



Fr. Nivard Kinsella, who gave the Homily at the 1961 re-union Mass, admires the "Dermot Tuohy Memorial Trophy".



Class of '61 today

From the front assuming four rows, l. to r.

Gerry Moloney, Michael Walsh, Sean Dineen, Freddie Wehrly, Peter Kehoe, Fr. Kevin, Arthur Joyce, Tom Hainsworth, John Fennessy.

2. John Shanahan, Liam Maher, John Coffey, Joe Buckley, Peter Sommerfield, Jim Grehan, Julian Hennessy (front), George Mullen, Fr. Ciaran (front), Joe Doherty, Fr. Andrew, Tim Lane, John Joyce, Jimmy Lennon, Fr. Billy Meehan.

3. Ian Downie, Richard Fennell, Mel McCarthy, Pat Callanan, Denis Chambers, Tom Garvey, Jack Fennell, Fr. Eanna, Donal Gallivan, Michael Keoghane, Liam Kilcawley.

4. Fr. Nivard, Fr. Peter, Hilary Lawless, Ray Ballantyne, Ray Gibbons.

In reply, Fr. Kevin said how delighted he was that so many of the 1961 year were able to make it back, and how pleased the college was to see so many "old" boys return. He commented that there is now an increasing number of these reunions occurring that he felt that this was a very desirable trend.

He was particularly pleased that the class had chosen to honour Dermot Tuohy in this way, as he had contributed so much to his experiences of all associated with the College — the boys, their families, the teachers and the community.

The Trophy is inscribed:-  
Dermot Tuohy Memorial Trophy  
for  
Artistic Achievement  
presented by  
Class of 1956-'61

industry and agriculture was flourishing. No wonder the people looked with horror on Hitler's hordes marauding through Europe. The Jewish people were most apprehensive and many prepared to emigrate. As America was the most desired destination a great rush to learn English began and teachers of the language were eagerly sought. It was really pathetic to see elderly professional people struggle with elementary grammar. I had an unpleasant experience one day. My pupil was a brilliant young lady lecturer at Prague University. She suddenly looked up from her book and with tears in her eyes asked the startling question: "Mr. Ryan, will you marry me?" She explained that it would not be a real marriage, just a formality to get her name on my passport. I could not oblige but did succeed in getting her a job in England.

## Recollections

I hope that a record of some of my experiences during my teaching career may be of interest to Pastmen. After qualifying in 1936 I secured a post in a secondary school in Prague. This was a unique institution in many respects. It was co-educational and while most of the students came from Czechoslovakia, there were many from central European countries. It was remarkable how so many nationalities blended so harmoniously. English was the medium of instruction in all subjects. The students were quite fluent in the language; most of them had a real flair for languages which included Czech, French, German and Latin. The teachers were mainly from England though there were Scots and Welsh also. We all got on very well together but there was no love lost when rugby or soccer trophies were at stake.

Czechoslovakia was a delightful country then. The people were most friendly and obliging and were enjoying the fruits of their newly won independence. There was an invigorating air of prosperity; the economy, based on an ideal blend of manufacturing

Despite the mounting political tension during the summer of 1938 we returned to Prague after the holidays. Soon after, one day during lunch a phone call from the British Embassy advised us to leave at once. There was a hectic rush to get visas, travel tickets etc. and we were on the way home again. Within a few weeks the Munich Agreement was made and believing Adolf's promise to be a good boy we returned to Prague again. The next upheaval was in March 1939 when the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia and then it was surely time to go for good. Poor Czechoslovakia! She had won independence after World War I, lost it in 1939, regained after World War II and lost it again to Russia in 1968.

The setting of my next job was in complete contrast. It was a high-class Prep school set in a magnificent mansion in the beautiful countryside of Hertfordshire. It was remarkable in that the headmaster and all the teachers were converts to Catholicism which they practised with great fervour. The school chaplain was a wonderful priest who later became Archbishop of Liverpool. Much time and attention was given to rugby and cricket. A former county cricket player coached the



senior boys. We became good friends and his expert tuition gave me a lasting interest in the game.

Although the atmosphere was generally very pleasant the headmaster made things rather difficult. Punctuality was his watchword. To be ten seconds late — or early — was a major misdemeanour and led to many a scene and premature departure. He also thought everyone had the gift of bilocation and much displeasure was caused by failing to be in different places at the same time. One day he sent me to London to collect an Irish boy who had a pronounced Cork accent. On arrival home, the headmaster, not understanding a word the boy spoke, turned to me and said, "What language is he speaking?" I informed him and he replied: "He won't do here" and he didn't. I often wondered how my Tipperary tones sounded to his ears. One teacher had poor discipline in class and the headmaster used to listen outside the door to the goings on. The teacher suspected this was so and one day, suddenly throwing open the door, greeted the eavesdropper with "Ah, I caught you" and went for the next train. Not surprisingly the turnover of teachers was high. I remained there for two happy years and easily beat the previous record for length of tenure which was two terms!

Before referring to my years teaching in the college I will touch on my student days there. They began in September 1928 and I well remember being greeted by the awe-inspiring President, Fr. Ailbe. The basic routine — class, recreation, study — hasn't changed much. Life was reasonably pleasant but not nearly as good as boys enjoy nowadays. Free days were few, holidays were shorter and mid-term breaks were unknown. Class continued until 3 p.m. on Saturdays. There were no film shows. A late sleep in the mornings was considered a great treat. Still everybody seemed to be happy and good humoured. There were no prescribed texts for the Certificate Exams and so the courses were long and tedious. By comparison with modern texts, the books used were dull and colourless though many of them are still household names, e.g. Allen's Latin Grammar, Moran's French Grammar and the Maths Books of Hall and Knight. Rugby and hurling were the popular games. Training for the cup competitions was quite intensive and though no trophies came our way we were always respected contenders. The most notable rugby performance was defeating Blackrock in the Senior Cup. I have many happy memories of my student days in the college and remember with affection and gratitude the many kind priests and teachers who taught there.

After my travels abroad, I joined the teaching staff in 1948. It was quite an experience meeting my former teachers in the staffroom on an equal status, but was soon made to feel at home. I was given the welcome task of training the hurlers. There were some excellent senior teams in the fifties and were unlucky to lose narrowly in several finals. There was some consolation in winning the Junior Cup in 1952. Great progress has been made in improving the facilities at the College. The new classroom block with its most up-to-date equipment is a major advance and is very much appreciated. There has been a big increase in the number of lay teachers whose wide ranging interests provoke many interesting and often heated

discussions among themselves on politics, games, etc. Sometimes, like Everton, I am among the winners. I am most grateful that for almost forty years I have been privileged to work with truly wonderful Cistercian monks, most friendly colleagues and countless boys of diverse talents and abilities.

My retirement last June coincided with that of my good friend, Liam Maher. The occasion was marked in a memorable manner with the expression of the warmest of good wishes and presentation of beautiful gifts by our colleagues. We were greatly honoured by the Lord Abbot who concelebrated Mass with the other priests of the college for us and our families. Then we were treated to a veritable banquet and were presented with magnificent gifts together with many glowing tributes of appreciation. To the Lord Abbot, Dom Colmcille and to the College President, Father Kevin and to the whole community I offer my most heartfelt gratitude. Long may the Abbey and College flourish and prosper.

Rody Ryan

## 25 Years On

Resumé of a Sermon at a Re-Union mass in the C.C.R. for the Class of 1961.

Fr. Nivard, O Cist.

When we look back over a period as long as twenty five years, there is no doubt that we will see change. For yourselves the change has been from the schooldays of your youth to the responsibilities of family and career. While this is perhaps the biggest change that your lives will ever undergo, it is probably also true that this particular quarter century has been the time of most change in the history of our country. Never before in such a short time has so much happened. While one could say that the time of the War for Independence, and its attainment brought bigger changes, this was not so in the society, in the kind of place Ireland is. The form of government is not necessarily the most striking and obvious difference that one can see or experience in a country. But the Ireland of 1960 when you were leaving school, and the Ireland of today, are vastly different places.

### THE E.E.C.

To catalogue the most important events in the past twenty years is easy enough. We have gone through the E.E.C. bonanza, come out the other side of it and are now into a recession. We went into the E.E.C. believing it would bring prosperity and to some extent the pot of gold at the end of the European rainbow. For a while it seemed to — especially to those who live by agriculture and farming. Apparently no one foresaw that costs would rise and that the influence of the Arab would be such as to make inflation a galloping scourge across Europe, and our little economy could not but sway dangerously in the wind that blew from the Gulf.

Prophets of doom are never listened to, and the few voices that warned about the inevitable when you go on borrowing, were not listened to either. We had apparently reached parity with the U.K. in our standard of living, and no one thought that costs all round would rise and money lose its value. We have never really asked ourselves what are

our expectations from Europe, and how realistic they are. It is probably not the fault of any one group — but we have declined into an ailing economy, and now everyone does realise that things are going to get a lot worse before they get better.

Perhaps we need to grow up in Europe and see what the Europeans want to buy from us. We need to start producing that. We need to stop looking on the Community as a bottomless treasure chest.

### EUROPE AND CULTURE

The impact of Europe on our mentality and outlook has, I suspect, been greater than we realise. No doubt very many people from this country were already seasoned travellers, but our entry into Europe has brought about an awareness of the fact that there are different ways of doing things than the one we have for so long. More people are travelling to Europe, more families are living there for a time at least, and the young people in the schools are being oriented towards Europe. Our old insularity has taken a beating, and we will never be quite so insular again. Censorship and regulations don't work any more, and there is a realisation that they will work less and less in the year ahead.

This insularity should not, of course, be overstated, but it was perhaps the single most characteristic aspect of our society in the past. We were very isolated, cut off from Europe by the bigger island of England and largely out of touch with the currents of thought there. We really did think that there was only one way of doing things, and that was ours. This has gone, and it is having considerable effects in the religious field. If people don't go to mass on Sunday in France, why should we go? If the priests have so little influence on the continent, why should they have all this influence here?

### SECULARISATION

This is probably the biggest change that has occurred in the recent past. It was foreseen and foretold by many, but no one thought it would come quite so fast, or that it would gain such momentum so quickly. The policy of the present government to secularise Irish society has helped this momentum, but it is also true that it would probably have happened anyhow.

It has been accompanied by a drift away from the Church which is most noticeable in the cities, but which is clearly evident here in the rural areas also. More and more young people do not go to Mass, more and more reject the authority of the Church to teach. There is less respect for christian marriage and its ideals, and there is little considered to be wrong with living together outside marriage. Indeed in many circles it is taken as the norm. Frequentation of the sacraments has dropped off, and there is little interest in the Church or its doings among many of our population.

It can also be said that the Church in many cases does not know how to deal with this. There are many parishes where there is no effective youth apostolate, or where there is no priest with specific responsibility for the young people. Yet they are not coming to Church, and there is no longer much reason to think that they will come back in a few years time. There is no proof what ever for this, and the contention that it will happen is no more than wishful thinking.



## THE REFERENDA

What do these show? I think they show us three facts about Irish society which are not merely important but show clearly the way we are going. The first is that Government thought it was politically feasible to try introducing new legislation which would have far-reaching consequences in the area of marriage and the family. As events proved, the Government misjudged the scene badly. But it will be tried again, and this failed attempt has opened up the subject and things will never be quite so closed again. In other words, next time it will succeed.

The second thing that the Referenda showed was the surprisingly large number who wanted change in the legislation — even about abortion. For generations we have taught the Church's doctrine, and yet at the first chance people get to change the legislation of the country on the matter, a large number are ready to vote to do so. That this minority will grow and will eventually carry enough weight to swing the issue seems likely.

The third lesson which I think we ought to learn from the Referenda is that Ireland is going down the same road that every nation in Western Europe has gone, and neither our insularity, our long catholic tradition, nor our isolation will stop this process. Already in many ways it can be seen, for instance in the drift away from Church practice. In some working class parishes in Dublin already the mass attendance is down to 20%. Do you remember that magic figure of 92% in the survey of ten years ago — already in last year's survey that has dropped to 80% all over. So the trend is there for all to see and it's certainly difficult to see that the Church as it is at present is going to stop it, much less reverse it.

## TOMORROW

So we are heading into a secular society, in which there will be much less church-going, much less loyalty to the Church, and less respect for the Church's position on moral teaching. What sort of Church will we have?

## CHURCH OF SERVICE

It will have to be a Church of service, and for that, the Church needs now to move into areas of greatest need. We know that with the best welfare services in the world (and ours are not that) there are gaps, and many people fall through them. There will be an increasing need for hospices for the dying and terminally ill; for refuges for battered wives and abandoned children; for treatment centres for alcohol and drug abusers. The victims of AIDS will have to be helped. The aged and the lonely, those who are unwanted by society, will need to be taken up by the Church. New forms of community life for tackling these problems will have to be born, and they will not be the religious congregations of the past. These have had their day, and many of them look as though they are dying. We need to stop talking about a vocations crisis and face up to the fact that we are emerging into a new era in Church history, and the era of the religious congregations as we have known them, is passing.

## POWER STRUCTURE

But this matter of the Church serving the needs of the poorest goes deeper than may appear. Clearly it is a gospel precept to serve the poorest. But the fact is, however

unpalatable it be, that for many the Church is seen as a power structure. It is seen as an institution that tries to control people's lives and no one will take that any more. In the recent past perhaps this rebellion against all sorts of authority is the single most significant fact. Everyman believes himself a free man and he is not going to allow anyone tell him how to live. He will decide for himself. This is not a question of the teaching authority of the Church. It is something much more basic than that. People will accept help, and they will accept advice, and they terribly want to be put in touch with God. But no way will they allow anyone the idea that if they do not live in a certain way, they will suffer eternal damnation. I am not saying that this attitude is right — I am only claiming that it is there. It is all around us. The Church is constantly coming across as authoritarian and uncaring, and this has got to change.

## CHURCH OF THE LAITY

I am not sure what this will mean exactly and I do not think anyone else is either. But I have no doubt about the fact — that the Church will have to be a Church of the laity. And half the laity are women, and it will have to recognise that women have rights and stop writing off the feminist movement as a lot of oddballs. It is not. It is one of the most powerful social forces for change in our world, and until the Church wakes up and gives to women their rightful role and place, more and more people will become disillusioned and will leave it. For it will not appear, but actually be, irrelevant.

I am not talking here about allowing girls to serve mass. I am talking about allowing laypeople, and that means both men and women, into the decision making process, and giving them some of the power. It presently seems a long way off, but it will have to come, and the sooner it comes the better.

## TOMORROW'S CATHOLIC

If these are the characteristics of the Church of tomorrow, what of tomorrow's Catholic? What sort of person will he or she need to be? Since I am talking to a male audience it is easier to say 'he'. I would say he will have to be socially aware. There is henceforth no spirituality without justice. You cannot any longer ignore the plight of the poor. But more importantly you cannot ignore the structures of society that keep the poor poor. It is up to the convinced Christian to change those structures and that means changing society.

He will have to be able to give a reason for the faith that is in him. It is a matter of argument or of refuting the atheists in debate, but of remaining convinced oneself in the midst of a secular and often hostile world. Jesus described the powers of the world as powers of darkness, and this has not changed. But we Christians are called on to light up this darkness with our faith in goodness, and in a life that is greater than this one. We are called to be Christians precisely so that we might "redeem the time" — go forward in confidence, with our faith in the power of God, for his Son said: "I have overcome the world". This is the authentic voice of the Christian — I have overcome the world. We can do it, but it is going to take a heart-breaking amount of change.

## News about Pastmen



*Dr. Sean Murphy, former Chairman of Galway/Mayo Branch was elected at the May meeting of the Central Committee to succeed Tom Ambrose as President of the Union in 1988.*

## LIAM LENEHAN

1977, formerly from Kilkenny; now a B. Comm, ARICS, has been appointed associate partner by Osborne King and Megran.

## PHILIP REYNOLDS

1982, has been appointed director of C & D Petfoods. He is from Longford and has been on the staff for a number of years. It is said that the company has an annual turnover of £12 million.

## GERRY MOLONEY

1961, one of the principal organizers of the '61 class re-union, has been made Managing Director of Allied Irish Securities. In his spare time Gerry grows the most fabulous flowers, especially his roses, and his herbaceous borders are without rival in Howth.

## ANDREW DURKIN

1956, formerly of Granard, Co. Longford, is now an M.D. and lives in Los Gatos, California. He limits his practice to Radiology.

## DENIS McCARTHY

1955, from Castlereagh is also a medical man and is at present a Professor in the University of New Mexico.

While we are at Medicine here are a few more of our men in the profession:

## JOHN MURPHY

1976, formerly of Willmount, Killenaule, Co. Limerick, is now a doctor practising in Shrewsbury, England.

## PAUL IRWIN

1976, has his F.R.C.S.I. and got married in July. He now lives in 154 Oakridge, Thornhill, Cardiff, CF4 9BW, Wales.

## GREGORY HAYS

1975, of Loughrea, Co. Galway, is also a doctor. We offer our sympathies to him and his family on the death of his father last July.

## DR. MARTIN KHARE DALY

1980, from Ballygar, Co. Galway; son of Dr. Joe Daly, who is chairman of the Galway/Mayo Branch of the Union and nephew of Fr. Kevin — President of the College — qualified in June '87.





*Dr. Joe Daly and Dr. Madeline Daly with their son Martin.*

*Dr. Joe Daly is Chairman of the Galway/Mayo Branch of the Union.*

**JOHN HARDING**

1976, of Gowran, is an Accountant with Centro Ltd., Dublin. He married an Arklow girl, Angela Somers, and they have one child.

**JIM & PHILIP HARDING**

run the marble works at Gowran. Jim is married.

**JOHN NEYLON**

1976, now living in Chapelizod, is a Civil Engineer with the Dublin Corporation. He married an Offaly girl, Concepta Williams from Rhode, in 1986.

**ANTHONY WHELAN & BILL McCORMACK** who are reading Law, were chosen Trinity Scholars of the Year 1986/'87.

**JOHN CALLAGHAN & RAY HERNAN** were picked for the Irish Rugby Squad to play Japan this year.

And another man from Japan to visit C.C.R. recently was **MICHAEL GARVEY**, 1970, who lectures in English in Tokyo University.

**PETER DALY**

1983, of Ballygar, took his B.A. in U.C.D. this year.



*Padraic O'Maille of Shop Street, Galway with his bride Anne Carroll on their wedding day.*

**DONAL COLLINS**

1982, of Kildare qualified as a Vet.

**LIAM DWAN**

1983, from Drom, Templemore, qualified as B. Eng. (Computer Studies) in Trinity in June '87. He is now with a Computer Analyst Company in London.

**JAMES GLEESON**

1983, Drangan, Thurles, qualified as a B. Mech. Eng. from Trinity in June '87. He took his finals with honours.

**BRIAN O'BOYLE**

1953, after many years of absence called during the Summer. Originally from Stroketown, Co. Roscommon, he now lives in Billericay, Essex CM12 9IX.

**DONAL HOGAN**

1940, who came from Tipperary Town, turned up for a visit after 40 years. He is stationed in Zimbabwe and recently met up with **PAUL ROBINSON**, thirty years his junior in C.C.R., who also lives out there.

**EDDIE GALLAGHER**

1980, betook himself to the U.S.A. — the next parish to his native Achill — and is now married.

**JOHN McNamara**

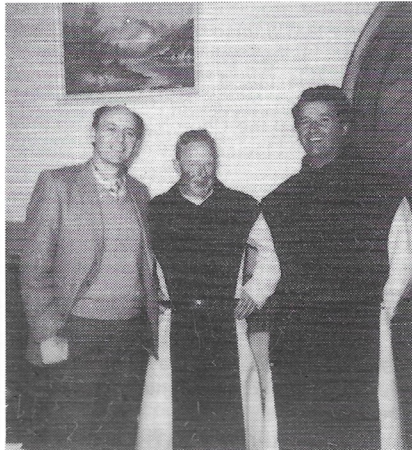
1967, of Athlone, was married to Andréé Rohan, August 1987.

**GREGORY SWIFT**

1975, married Iris Babbington in July, '87. They live in Killiney Avenue, Co. Dublin.

**PÁDRAIC Ó MÁILLE**

1979, of Galway, married Anne Carroll during the summer. Pádraic is Hon. Sec. of the Galway/Mayo Branch.



*Andrew P. Durkin, M.D.; Fr. Matthew, Fr. Kevin.*

**Dates For Your Diary**

**23rd October, 1987:** South Tipperary Branch, Dinner Dance at the Anner Hotel, Thurles. Phone 0504-21799. Black tie.

**6th November, 1987:** Dublin Branch Dinner, at the United Service Club, Stephens Green, Dublin 2. Phone 01-770951/777237



*South Tipperary Branch Officers*

*Fr. Denis Curtin, Chairman; Kevin Dwan; Conor Moloney; Jim Doyle; Michael O'Dwyer. Seated: Matt Hyland; Fr. Kevin; Tom Ambrose; Michael Roche.*



**OBITUARY LIST**

**TADHG O'BRIEN, 1968**

Killarney.

**DR. TOM DALY, 1929**

Dublin. (Athenry).

**FR. CON CLEARY, 1923**

Montana, U.S.A. (Gortnahoe).

**FR. BROCARD MANSFIELD (Michael) 1923**

Clarendon St., Dublin.

**FR. JOHN CARROLL, 1914**

Castleknock. (Buree).

**DENIS HYNES, 1962**

Ennistymon.

**FRANK McDONALD, 1962**

Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.

**MICHAEL BURKE, 1910**

Kilkenny. (Portumna).

**BREFFNI McGOVERN, 1975**

Cork.

**KIERAN EGAN, 1977**

Greystones. (Birr).

**DUDLEY O'GARA, 1933**

Sligo

**FR. JIM ENGLISH, 1930**

Australia. (Tipperary).

**MICHEÁL BREATNACH**

Former Teaching Staff.

**EUGENE O'ROURKE**

Former Teaching Staff.

**DERMOT TUOHY**

Former Teaching Staff.

**BR. PAUL O'MEARA, o.c.s.o.**

Roscrea — 1918/1987.

**DANIEL O'MEARA, 1935**

Roscrea

**BR. MICHAEL RYAN, o.c.s.o.**

Roscrea — 1919/1987.

R.I.P.

**13th November, 1987:** NATIONAL WEEKEND AWAY AND DINNER DANCE, at the Park Hotel, Kenmare.

See advertisement on back page.

Phone: 064-41200/41097.

**N.B.** Bookings for South Tipperary Dinner Dance: Jim Doyle, Cooleeney House, Moyne, Thurles.

Phone 0504-45213, or direct to Hotel.



## Letter from the President of the Union, Tom Ambrose

As I complete my first year as President of the Union. It has been a wonderful year for me involved in so many C.C.R. activities and I am looking forward to the second year now that I have found my feet a little in this exciting job.

One of the pleasures of the office is the close contact it brings with the boys in the College as they participate in their different activities involving sports or Opera or career guidance. I particularly enjoyed seeing the Senior Rugby team in action against St. Pauls and Blackrock, and was proud to follow the Senior Hurling team as they won their way to the All Ireland College B Final.

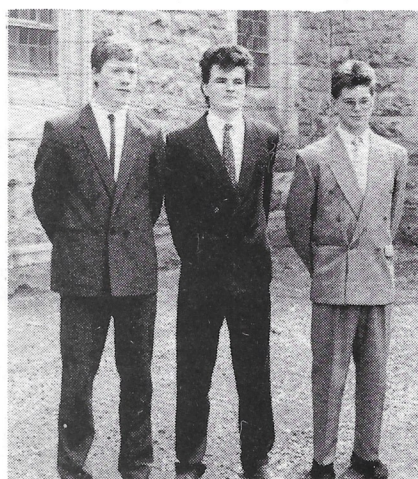
It is a pleasure to congratulate Dr. Sean Murphy on his selection as our next President. Already he has given hugely of his time and talents to the P.P.U. and I look forward to again seeing his wife, Noreen, and himself at many of the functions this year. We especially hope to attend functions in the Midland Branch and in the South East branch, where last year there was no such happy event. This was particularly sad as they had been excellent social gatherings in recent times. And of course I still hope that the Limerick Branch will arise from the ashes before my term of office is over!



For the coming school year, I wish every success to Fr. Kevin and the students of the College, a task that becomes with each succeeding year even more daunting. However, I believe the college is not only outstandingly successful in the formation of the young men in its care, and in their academic, sporting and cultural activities, but also that it retains the great spirit and atmosphere that has always made it the country's finest. I would ask each Branch Committee to continue the hard work so essential to the survival of the Union, and to attempt to incorporate into each social function some motivation towards a more serious goal. I would like to see us publicise more widely the existence of the Cistercian Community and the dedication of the Monks in the monastery whose life has such an influence on, and are so much part of, the College; to adopt and promote a local charitable cause; to harness whatever resources we may have in helping young past men to secure employment in these very difficult times.

I look forward to meeting many of you again during the coming year and I hope the year will begin with a very successful Union Day and A.G.M. If we miss that dead-line let us meet in Kenmare!

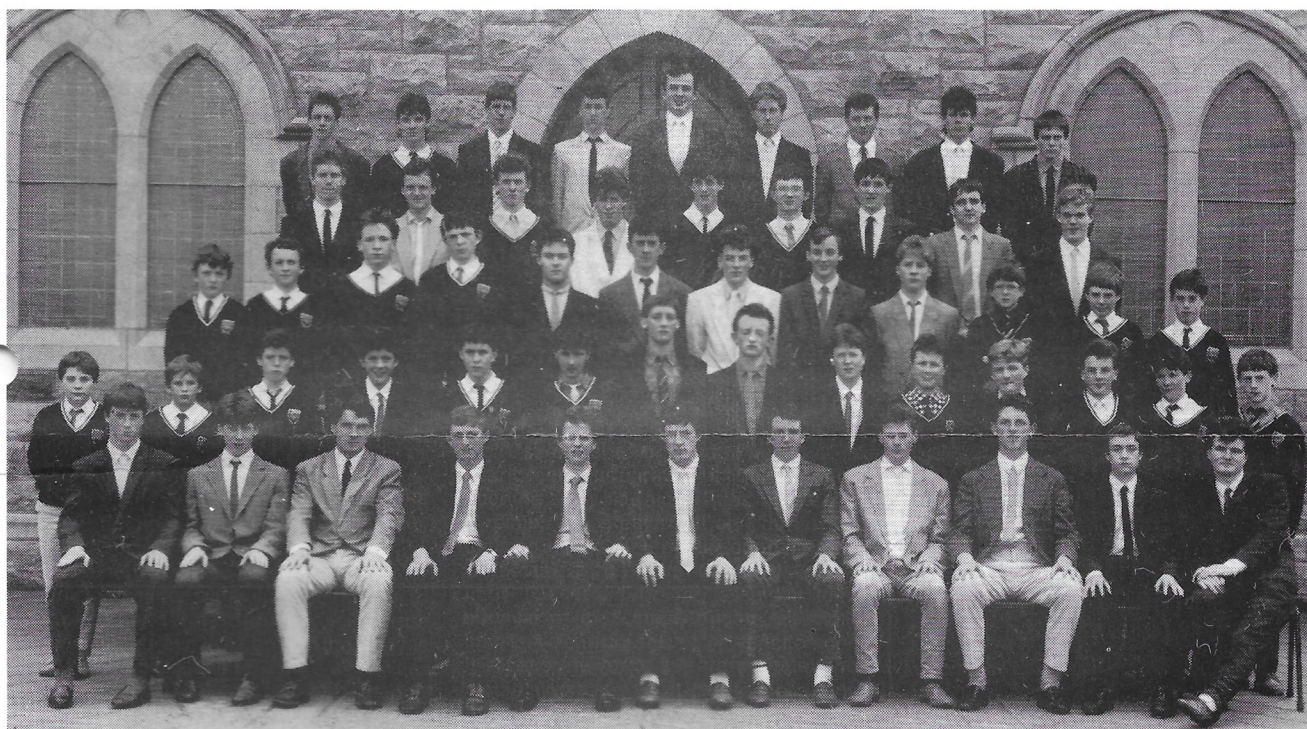
## House Captains 1986/'87



*Peter Hynes - Captain, from Castlerea, in middle, assisted by John Bates, Clonaslee on the left and Mark Ledwidge, Portlaoise on the right.*

## Union Gold Medal for 1987

It was won by John Manton of Urard, Urlingford. He got nine A's and one B, in the Intermediate Examination.



*Sons of Pastmen 1986/'87*

*Back row: Joe Grehan, Peter Delahunty, Kenneth Bredin, Bill Dwan, Niall Murphy, Eoghan Comerford, Gerald Grace, Anthony Delahunty, Niall Conroy.*

*Third row: Eoin Rafferty, John Hackett, Michael McNerney, Jeremy Massey, Sean Bredin, Enda Murphy, Garrett Culliton, Robert O'Shea, James Phelan.*

*Second row: Paul Johnson, Mark McNerney, Julian Flynn, Thomas Murphy, Garvan Roche, Gearoid Kerin, Declan Murphy, Shane Slattery, Brian Comerford, Niall McGee, Patrick Phelan, Dermot Dwan.*

*First row: John Brett, Donal O'Brien, Angus Massey, Freddie Kirk, Brian Roche, David Galvin, Neal Culliton, Ken Ryan, Martin Purcell, Peter Phelan, Michael O'Regan, Brian Murphy, Jonathan Keoghane, Michael Littleton.*

*Seated: Brian Cahill, Rory Liffey, Alan Massey, Edward O'Regan, Conal O'Neill, Joe Murphy, Paul O'Shea, Philip O'Shea, Hugh O'Connor, Thomas Brett, Peter Hynes.*





## *Park Hotel Kenmare*

KENMARE, CO. KERRY, IRELAND.  
TELEPHONE: 064-41200/41097/41131. TELEX: 73905.

ROSCREA PAST PUPILS UNION

# ***National Weekend Away and Dinner Dance***

***13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 1987***

### RATES

*Special Weekend Rate: 2 nights B/B + Dinner Dance (Saturday Night)*  
£75.00 per person sharing

*Special Overnight B/B: £30.00 per person*

*DINNER DANCE £28.00 per person*

*Single Room Supplement: £12.00 per person, per night*

AN EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS ACCOMMODATION IS LIMITED

BOOK DIRECT TO MR. FRANCIS BRENNAN, PARK HOTEL, KENMARE.



*Park Hotel Kenmare*