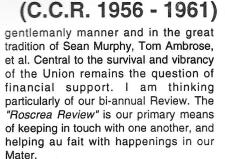
# ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 59

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Autumn 1992

# AN ADDRESS FROM UNION PRESIDENT, MICHAEL KEOGHANE



It is vital that the "Review" be kept alive and thriving. This calls for renewed commitment from all pastmen, a commitment that finds its expressions in terms of literary and financial support. We have, I feel, far too long taken for granted the trojan efforts of Fr. Dermot in editing, publishing and distributing the review. We owe him an incalculable debt of gratitude. The finest expression of our gratitude is to guarantee that the "Roscrea Review" remains financially and editorially secure into the Millienium.

Fr. Dermot this year celebrates his Golden Jubilee. This soft spoken monk represents all that is selfless and selfeffacing in the Trappist tradition. We look forward to making the services of the Union available whenever and wherever possible. We particularly want to be of service to the Board of Governors in their daunting task of maintaining the Cistercian ethos that has gone into the shaping of us all.

I speak for myself now. It was years after I had left Roscrea that I discovered the inner strengths of the seeds that had been sown in the college. I value deeply that legacy and promise that my work as President will be devoted to promoting that legacy among all our pastmen. I

shall be available at all times and always disposed to help in whatever way I can. My hope is that an even greater unity and solidarity will be fostered.

C.C.R. has left its mark on us all - it is our duty and privilege to make a return for all that we value from our years in Roscrea.

We look forward to working with Fr. Kevin, the President, Mr. Smyth, the Dean of Studies, the present staff and students as to what they would like the Union to do for them. Ours is the only Cistercian Boarding school in the world. It is a unique Institution and we are justly proud of its precious heritage. I would ask you for your continuing support for the Central Council and the members of the committee.

Our next Central Council Committee function is the Kenmare Weekend. These weekends are unique occasions and I would ask you, if at all possible, to join

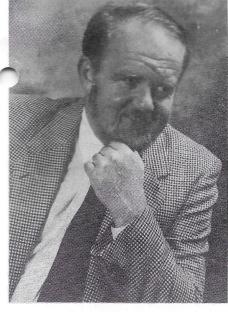
Again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I can but hope that I shall be a worthy successor to those who have worn this chain of office with such distinction in the past.

Michael Keohane

Michael Keohane, Bookseller. C.C.R. 1956 - '61. Rosaleen Keohane, Wife.

Dervil Keohane, Daughter - Teaching and working in Japan.

Jonathan Keohane, Son - Roscrea Cistercian College 1986-'91, currently attending U.C.D.



It is indeed a singular honour to be chosen as President of the Union. Conor, my immediate predecessor, has masterfully enhanced the state of the Union with the charming and able assistance of his incomparable Ayena. He has always been an admirable and accessible ambassador for the Union. He leaves the Presidency, having reactivated the Annual Retreat and injected new life in the Kenmare weekend and a particularly notable achievement has been the introduction of the Mount Juliet Classic.

Conor once referred to himself in a Union letter as an unpopular parish priest, never missing the opportunity of raising the topic of finance. He has at all times carried out his term of office in dutiful and

# 1992 ANNUAL GOLF COMPETITION LORD ABBOT'S CUP

Regular attenders at the Lord Abbot's Cup will be aware of the importance of 1992 for the members of Roscrea Golf club. It firstly marked the club's centenary, an event of historic significance by itself. But, when that is

allied to the simultaneous opening of a new 18 hole development, you can imagine the proud sense of achievement that has dominated the club's atmosphere in recent months. This has been added to by the lavish praise being

heaped on the new Arthur Spring designed course by the hundreds of visitors who are a new and welcome feature of club life. The officers of the club very much look forward to our big day on Saturday, September 26th, and I am delighted that Centenary President -Bill Hanly and Centenary Captain Frank O'Connor - will attend the Lord Abbot's Cup Dinner.

Because of the 18 hole format, we have greater flexibility in regard to the number of golfers we can accommodate on the course. Therefore, we are having a separate Visitors' Section on the day. This will be open to guests of pastmen and of course, to Roscrea members not involved in The Abbot's Cup itself. In consultation with the club, the following format has been agreed:-

8.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. VISITORS 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. C.C.R. UNION 11.30 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. VISITORS 12.15 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. C.C.R. UNION 3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. VISITORS

The competition format for the Abbot's Cup and the Visitors' Section will be 18 hole Stableford, current club handicaps to apply. For 1992, there will be no separate competition for ladies. Instead, all wives, girlfriends etc. of past pupils may play in the Lord Abbot's Cup and be eligible for all prizes, with the exception of the Lord Abbot's Cup itself, which can only be won by a member of the P.P.U.

Once again we will be operating a timesheet and this is the responsibility of Mr. Gerry Hayes. Gerry can be contacted at (0505) 21061 during office hours and at (0505) 47165 in the evenings. Please ensure to book a tee-time in advance. Competitors will play in three – balls only and there will be an eight minute break between each grouping.

There has been a very generous response in terms of sponsorship and we will at least be able to emulate the standard and range of prizes that have become a feature of the competition in recent years. Indeed, I'd like to avail of this opportunity to thank the many pastmen who support the day, and a special word of thanks to those sponsoring prizes each year since the competition came back to Roscrea Golf Club.

The Lord Abbot's Cup Dinner continues to be one of the special nights in the



Back Row: Liam Spooner, Gerard Maher, Aiden McNulty, Noel Windle Front: Fr. Dermot, Conor Massey, Sean Murphy

calendar of Union events. I'm delighted that Union President, Michael Keoghane, has confirmed that he'll attend and he'll be joined by the usual sprinkling of former Presidents. We can only accommodate 64 at the dinner. (Clubhouse. 7.30 p.m. Saturday. 26th September) and, as in previous years, it is imperative that bookings be made in advance. Dinner reservations are the responsibility of North Tipperary's Treasurer, Liam Spooner and he can be contacted at (0505) 21063 – Office and (0505) 22074 – Home.

All 18 holes in Roscrea enjoy sponsorship for the next three years and, having been approached by the Club, the Central Executive Committee of the Union were delighted to have the Par 5 tenth hole sponsored by the P.P.U. To acknowledge this "special relationship", there will be a prize on the day for any

competitor in the Abbot's Cup who has an eagle (3 Gross) on the tenth hole. (As you can see, we're noted for our generosity in the North Tipperary Branch!)

Roscrea now measures 5708 metres off the championship tees and it is these we will be using for our competition. It is a challenging course and whoever emerges victorious on the day will be a deserving winner of a great competition played over a course that now offers a great venue for a great Cup.

The rates for the day are as follows:—
Green Fees (where applicable) £10.00
Competition Fee (Abbot's Cup) £5.00
Competition Fees (Visitors' Section)£3.00

Dinner (inclusive of wine) £15.00 Gerard P. Maher, Chairman North Tipp. Branch PPU

# MY YEARS AS A C.C.R. STUDENT (1987-'92)

Maurice Phelan, 3rd House Captain

During my late primary school days, my mind was haunted by the daunting prospect of having to leave home and go to boarding school. Cistercian College, Roscrea was to be this boarding school vet the concept of such did not come as a sudden shock to me as it did to so many of my friends. As far back as I can remember, my parents always told the boys in our family that C.C.R. was going to be our future school. My father, being a past student, always nursed this dream as did so many other pastmen of our era. My eldest brother, James, was obviously the first to go to boarding school. Then the day came when it was my turn to face C.C.R. with its future joys, triumphs, disappointments and difficulties. That evening proved to be an overwhelming experience. The thoughts of sleeping

away from home amongst strangers, whom I knew were to become my friends, made me anxious and frightened. That night, however, it turned out that a few of the boys starting with me were sons of past men. As respective fathers greeted each other, they soon began to reminisce about the good old days and assure their shy and lonely sons that these were to be the happiest days of our lives. Somehow, we didn't quite believe them but smiled a curt acknowledgement.

The changes that occurred both with regard to the school and myself, in the five years I spent at C.C.R. were incredible. Indeed, the events that helped mould a new C.C.R. were unprecedented in the school's history. In these short 5 years, I witnessed the school divert from the sphere of almost complete monastic

domination and control into the sphere where lay people were given responsibilities previously held only by monks.

In the summer prior to my entering C.C.R. 3 teachers retired – Mr. Maher Snr., Mr. Ryan and Fr. Flannan. Already, it appeared that a new age was dawning in the history of the school but at the time, I was too young to comprehend its significance.

For the first month of school, the topic of conversation amongst senior house was that of Past Students' Day. Accustomed to such, I was soon given the task by my friends to explain what happens on such a day. My explanation, I recall, was brief and to the point. It basically entailed a short description of the Past v. Present Rugby and Hurling Matches and then a detailed illustration of exactly how the past students used to entertain themselves afterwards. Such was the

impression created in my mind from my previous experiences of Past Students' Day and funny enough that impression hasn't changed much over the five years I spent in C.C.R.

Thanks to the comfort provided by my brother, I soon began to adjust to life in Roscrea. Another thing that helped me settle down was the excellent sports' facilities provided by the college (one of the few things that impressed me most about the school). In sport, I found an outlet where I could dispense of new energy in an enjoyable fashion. Due to the huge change that occurred in my life in these first few months the memories of that particular time must rank the clearest I have of Roscrea over a certain period.

When I returned as a 4th year, James, my brother had now been ordained a "past pupil". When I asked how it felt, his immediate response was one of delight. But when he returned on Past Students' Day, he and his class mates had adopted 1 different attitude. Now C.C.R. was given the rank of being "not a bad ole place after all". At the time, I found it difficult to believe them but now, having left the school, I'm finding it easier to understand.

While in 5th year, the Board of Governors was established. Many of the staff were excited about this new breakthrough, as now the school was given a more

positive and stable backbone. Suddenly, C.C.R. underwent an unprecedented change; yet in the eyes of its students, not much had changed at all except that Room 17 was no longer available as a "study room" for those who were supposedly too injured to climb the stairs to the study hall. In a way, I suppose that may be viewed as a major change in itself, as fewer people seemed to get injured anymore.

When I returned as a 6th year, another major change had manifested itself in the history of the college. For the first time ever the prestigious position of Dean of Studies (Principal) had passed from the hands of a monk – Fr. Ciaran, into the hands of a lay person – Mr. Frank Smyth. Suddenly, in the space of a few years, the monks had courageously accepted lay people for the good of the college. As far as I know, their decision has so far been a success.

During my term as 3rd House Captain, I became more up-to-date with the P.P.U. being given tasks with the two other House Captains, to help cater for the two class reunions of that year. One of the reunions happened to be that of my father's class. Many of his class hadn't seen each other since they left Roscrea in 1966 and judging by the expressions on many of their faces they couldn't remember each other either. The three of

us simply watched and wondered what would become of us in the years to

The next day was Past Students' Day and seeing those who had been just a year ahead of us return as past pupils made me yearn for the time I would be finished in the school. Such was the reaction of most of the sixth year. When I asked the lads what was the best part of being a member of the P.P.U. the reply was universal – "The social scene".

Then the sixth year came, the time we had all looked forward to for so long. On receiving the college tie as a present from the P.P.U., we suddenly realised that we were now official past students. The sense of relief was overwhelming and laughter and excitement filled the ref. as each person stood up and endeavoured to nostalgically recall the events that occurred during their years as C.C.R. students - all of us sensed a certain sadness. However, suddenly it dawned on us that a few of us may never see each other again. This realisation came all too suddenly and a few tears were shed. Yet most were glad to have finished and be members of the famous Past Pupils' Union. Soon our visions and images of what happens at P.P.U. meetings will be either confirmed or shattered. I look forward to finding out.

# CLASS OF 92 - R.I.P.

Brian Brosnan – 1st House Captain Roscrea '87 - '92

At last, . . . it's over, passé, finished. The C.C.R. Class of '92 has finally graduated and despite the inevitable reunions and resurrections, be they formal or exceedingly informal, its ghost may stir, but never will it rise again. A volatile mixture of relationships will soon be altered forever by environment and circumstance. Having spent five years trudging, with the occasional run, along the same trail as sixty others, different routes now beckon. Only by comparison with what is to come will we come to assess the C.C.R. experience as good, bad or indifferent.

Writing this a mere month later, I feel a sense of achievement and loss, because I survived it and because I no longer have it to survive. At twelve years of age, a five year sentence is an interminable, agonising length of time. It is not only a page that has been completed but a chapter. The cornerstone has been laid on which the future skyscrapers, bungalow or hovel will rest. At the moment, all we can envisage are skyscrapers. Emerging from its reclusive environs, anywhere beyond Monty's has a glittering allure. Legend boasts that life gets better on the outside causing us to cross off the days in expectation. By sixth year, we had finally decided to enjoy the ride.

There is an oppressive security about being able to predict with reasonable certainty that at exactly 5.40 p.m. tomorrow, next week, next month and next year, you will be driven with the herd towards the Study Hall. I am glad to escape the unrelenting routine, the shrill misery of the bell on an icy morning. To think how many pints of beer will be drunk nostalgically in its honour! No doubt, the sauce of time will render it more appetising. The grimness will be erased, the escapades magnified, double chemistry forgotten and the camaraderie romanticised.

I am addressing an audience of past students of which I am now a member. Perhaps it would be more accurate to brand us "Just Past Students", who, like newly weds, ostentatiously displaying a "Just Married" sign for all to see, are enjoying a honeymoon period. From the student's viewpoint, the union funds the odd amenity, distributes emergency aid in the aftermath of a cup defeat or submits their car and wife to assessment on past students' day. It is only when presented with the tie after the "Last Supper", that it assumes real importance. It is, after all, past students who need it most.

It must be said, that the school's monastic environment provides a unique opportunity for contemplation and self-discovery. One gains a precious insight into human nature and learns to "be your own man" as it is impossible to keep a

mask constantly up. A common bond develops that is stronger than having mere acquaintances. However, a little time to stop and think is great, but if you are stopped long enough there is little left to think about. As a new kid, there existed a powerful sense of independence, standing on my own two feet. Five years later, it sometimes feels as if I am still standing while others can run. To catch up, a few of us will run and probably fall. There is always a temptation in boarding schools to keep trouble at bay and all will be well. How well does this unisex, regulated, drug and alcohol free environment prepare us for what is to come?

The mid-February bravado that "I will be glad to get out of this hole" is gone. That is not to say that the fifth years take the gratified "Have a nice sixth year" message sincerely. Yet, you cannot spend five years in any place without it becoming a part of you. Despite the gradual accumulation of privileges, one feels a longing to move to a new stage, to perhaps play a different role. I have been part of the C.C.R. experience and I have benefitted personally and by the friends I made. Already, I can perceive a future feeling of security, of well-being and of innocence on returning. In five years time (when I write part two of this article) I hope to be a small bit wiser, even sentimental, and be able to say "Ah, those were the days".

# (THE GENERAL SECRETARY) – A SURVEY

By Fr. Dermot O Colmain

Bernard Sheppard, a native of Cloughjordan, was the first General Secretary of the Union. He was a student in C.C.R. from 1925 to 1928 and at the time of his appointment he was teaching in Dublin. He was the founder of St. Conleth's School for Boys. It still flourishes. Bernard was on the first committee of the Union held on the 16th December, 1929 in the Gresham Hotel. He held the office of Hon. Sec. (as it was then called) until 1933 when Edward Doris was elected. In the beginning the offices of President, Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas. were elected annually from among the members of the Committee, which was also elected at the Annual General Meeting. Doris was followed in 1935 by Christy Healy who was retained in office until 1942. Kennedy O'Brien then took over for four years, to be followed by Sean Collins for six years. Christy Carroll's term in office from 1952 to 1955 brings us into "modern times" and the advent of the "younger generation" in the person of Noel Windle. He chronicled the events, and carried the correspondence that led to the "Reformation" of the Union in 1958. The second item on the agenda drawn up by Noel for that final meeting on 26th January, 1958, was, the appointment of a monk as Honorary Secretary. No better man to pass on the

The new Constitution was adopted by the Union at the A.G.M. held in the College on the 8th June, 1958. It was called the Golden Jubilee edition of the rules. As time went on, it was called other things: the most recent was "that little white book". In the new set up, the place of the Hon. Sec. was rather unique. He was the only non-elected officer on the Central



Organising Committee of the 1992 South Tipperary Function with Union President, Conor Massey and College President, Fr. Kevin

Committee. It is set out in the rules that "the Reverend General Secretary of the Union shall be a Member of the Community of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, and shall be nominated by the Right Reverend, The Patron. The Reverend General Secretary may delegate a member of the Central Committee or any other member of the Union as his Substitute for particular occasions". (A lot of capital letters in that mouthful!)

The first duty laid on the Reverend General Secretary's shoulders is that he shall keep a Roll of Members of the Union and keep track of the membership subscriptions. He had to send due notice to the Members of the Central Committee regarding their Meetings which were held about four times a year. A record was to be kept, of what was discussed and the decisions made at all these Meetings.

The first to hold office under the new constitutions was Fr. Anthony Finnegan

He was followed, over the next ten years, by Fr. Andrew Fennessy, Fr. Damien Smyth, Fr. Cathal Ryan and in October 1968 Fr. Dermot O'Colmain was appointed. He has been at it since.

Fr. Cathal began the "Roscrea Review" in the Spring of 1962. Peadar Walsh was President. For the next thirty years this paper has been one of the most constant crosses carried by the General Secretary. It began as a quarterly but eventually ended up with two issues a year. This involves the gathering of news, views and information about Past Students, the Union and the College, and collecting suitable photographs to illustrate the paper. All this material must be collated and edited. A printer must be engaged, proofs read and corrected, and a lay-out or mock-up attempted. When the finished work is delivered, the individual copies must be folded. enveloped and addressed. This was simple in the beginning when a few

hundred were involved, but the current total is 2,060 and growing! And finally, they have to be stamped and posted. This job, I think, should be undertaken in turn by each Branch for a minimum of two years (i.e. four issues). The Chairman and Committee of each Branch would select a very small group of their Members, who have office facilities, to take care of the whole job. The "Review" is the biggest financial drain (and the only one) the Union has. The Review Fund, recently established, at present provides an income of £2,000 per annum. This falls short of what is needed at present.

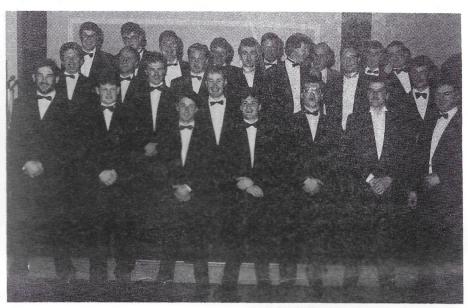


Michael Keoghane presents a painting of the Monastery to outgoing President Conor Massey.

Union A.G.M. May 1992

A further injection of capital is needed to provide an income of at least £3,000, to cope with rising costs.

The provision and care of the money the Union needs should not be the General Secretary's responsibility. The rules say that the Central Funds of the Union be vested in the names of three Trustees nominated from time to time by the Central Committee; at present they are the two General Treasurers and the General Secretary. A custom has grown for many years of withdrawal cheques being signed by one of the Treasurers and the General Secretary. The Central Committee needs a small group of financial advisers who will be responsible for the collecting of money and the paving of all bills. When the "Review" was started, all the General Secretary had was a Portable Brother Typewriter and a promise of £20 from the Central Committee. John F. Walsh, who was then Hon. Treasusrer, helped the situation considerably by offering to have the addresses needed for the "Review" run off on the Addressograph in his office. He carried on this service until the Central Committee got its own machine several years later. Then Fr. Emmanuel stepped into the breach and produced the computer label. This, and many other services, he continued to provide to the Union until his recent illness. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. In the Union office today we have the original typewriter, a Rank Xerox photocopier that has already outlived its quarantee and is now twelve years old, an I.B.M. computer with most of the gear an uncertain future, due to the advancing years of the operator and his lack of knowledge. There is also a filing-cabinet. The great strength of our Union is in the stability of its heart - the College and its Staff. Its weakness is in the rapidly changing Branch Officers. They have hardly rolled up their sleeves and got down to business when it is time for them to move on. Most of the Branches have not got the numbers for an elaborate infrastructure. Few, if any, can emulate Dublin. They have the tradition and the numbers. When Branches reach the stage, when they cannot furnish the



Pascal Nugent invited some classmates from 1982 to attend the South Tipperary Dinner!

necessary quorum of five for a meeting, the President of the Union and the General Secretary may call a meeting of the Branch on their own authority and try to put matters in order. The longer a Branch is allowed to drift unmanaged, the harder it gets for anyone to get things back on course again.

Things have been good over the past ten years. The Diamond Jubilee in 1989 was a very heartening experience and showed a strong sense of loyalty and devotion to College and the Union among our senior members. This is also revealed in each succeeding generation when the "Class Reunions" get together. The initiative for these gatherings comes entirely from the Past Students involved. They get whatever help they request from the General Secretary and the President of the College, but the organization, the hunt for "missing persons" and the final arrangements are carried out by the members of the class. It takes about two years to organize one of these functions.

The fortunes of our Branches fluctuate. They are as good as the two or three men at the helm, and the migrant habits of the younger generations make organization uncertain. With so many overseas, a reorganization of the London Branch has been undertaken. Our Past Students in America have asked for a Branch, or at least an organized Group. Some say go West, others opt for some of the great Irish centers of the East Coast . . . . we will see!

The Union is here to stay – with God's help and your co-operation it faces a glorious future. What can I do for it? Only you can answer that. See you at the next Union Day.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 26th September, '92 Golf for the Abbot's Cup. Roscrea Golf Club. Class Reunion, 1962.

27th September UNION DAY Union Mass in the Abbey at 11.00 a.m. Lunch in the College, 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Past v. Present Matches, 3.00 p.m. Kenmare Week-end Away. 30th October to 1st November, 1992. BOOK NOW PARK HOTEL, KENMARE, CO. KERRY.

# CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA CLASS OF 1962 - '67 SILVER JUBILEE REUNION

It has been decided to hold a reunion of the Cistercian College Class of 1962-'67. This will take place, with the agreement of the College authorities on the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, September 26/27th, 1992. Anyone who went through C.C.R. – even for a limited time – with the class which began in 1962 and finished in 1967 is encouraged to come and join the weekend. A number of other years have previously organised reunions and they

have been highly successful. So we are looking for a full turnout. The programme is planned as follows.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th:

Arrive at Roscrea in the morning for those who wish to participate in the Union golf outing at Roscrea Golf Club. Roscrea G.C. have a new 18 hole course. The 1962-'67 class will have the tee from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Non golfers should join the others at the golf club from about 3.00 p.m. or meet at the College from about 4.30 p.m. on. Photographs at 5.00 p.m. Mass at 5.30 p.m. A sherry reception will be held at the College after Mass. Coach transportation

will be provided from the College to the County Arms Hotel, Birr for dinner at hotel at 8 p.m. Overnight accommodation will be available at the hotel.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th:

Breakfast at hotel. Coach back to College. Buffet lunch at College along with other pastmen coming back for Union Day. Matches in the afternoon.

A very attractive rate has been negotiated with the hotel for dinner and overnight accommodation. It is hoped that as many as possible will stay overnight.

# "DIASPÓIREACHT GAEL LINN"

Ba mhór an gaisce é d'fhoireann an Choláiste Craobh Sinsearach na hÉireann a bhuachaint i gConíortas díospóireachta Gael linn i mbliana. Ba é seo an tríú huair gur éirigh linn an onóir seo a bhaint amach agus nuair a chuirtear san áireamh gur éirigh leo Craobh na Sóisear a bhuachaint i Muineacháin 1984 chomh maith le craobhacha na Mumhan idir sinsear agus sóisear is léir go bhfuil stádas na Gaeilge faoi bhláth; C.C.R. i láthair na huaire. Toisc nach raibh Tomás Ó Cochláin, Pól Ó Dáimhín agus Micháel Ó Conaill ach sa cúigiú bliain anuraidh tá súil agam go leanfaidh siad leis na díospóireachtaí an bhliain seo chugainn chun an Chraobh a chosaint.

Is mór an buntáiste é go bhfuil suim ag na mic-léinn sna díospoireachtaí agus go bhfuilid sásta taighde agus ullmhúcháin a dhéanamh do na rúin éagsula a bhíonn le plé acu i rith na bliana. Is léir go gcabhraíonn an t-ullmhúchán leo fadhbanna móra an tsaoil a phlé agus a chíoradh mar go mion-mhinic bíonn na rúin casta go leor. Ba iad seo a leanas na ceithre rúin deireannacha a bhfuair siad i mbliana "go bhfuil príomhaidiú comhluchtaí Stáir ar leas na Tíre", "gur imigh Columbus ro-fhada siar", "Gúr Naisiún díspeagaigh muid", "Gúr tabhachtaí bheith id Eireannach ná id Eorpach". Cé go bhfuil comhghairdeas agus ard-mholadh tuillte ag an dtriúr a bhuaigh an comórtas caitfear creidíuint agus buíochas a ghábháil le Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh, Ronán Ó Riain, Micheál Ó Colatuín, Tomás Ó Meachair, Conchubhar Mac an tSionnaigh agus Réamonn Ó Ceannabháin, baill den phaiméil a dhein taighde, a bhailigh nótaí agus a chabhraigh go mór leis an dtriúr ar an bhfoireann chun an craobh a bhuachaint.

# A FLAVOUR OF HISTORY

The editor has asked for a 'flavour' of my findings after two years of research into the life of C.C.R. That's not easy. There are several different flavours - some sweet, some sour, some mixed. There are financial, academic, managerial, cultural, religious and sporting flavours and they can make for a strange mixture. Fr. Laurence Walsh the Abbey Bursar, is researching the buildings, salaries, costings etc. from the earliest years. £40 was the annual fee during the thirties and £55 in the late forties. The oil-crisis of the seventies sent the fee soaring. It was £2,050 in '81. The cost of building the college and then the pavilion (30's), the college Chapel (40's), the new toilets (50's), the new classblock and swimming pool (70's) will make for interesting reading.

So too will the academic results. Fr.



Diaspóireacht Gael Linn

Tá traidsiún na díospóireachta fós láidir sa Choláiste agus is minic a thagann ainmneacha na n-earscoláirí chugam a chabhraigh chun an traidisiún sin a bhunú agus a chothú. Cé nach bhfuil ar mo chumas cuimhneamh orthu go léir ná fiú ord a chur orthu credim gur dhein Liam de Brandúin, Uinsionn Ó Briain, Pádraig, Seán agus Niall Ó hEaráin. Brian Ó Comhghain, An t-Aire Saothair a labhrann go liófa ar son an Rialtais, Ciarán Mac Gearailt, Murchú Ó Catháin, Seán Ó Ríogáin, Seán Ó Broin, Seán Ó Conghaile, Fearghus agus Darach Ó Conchubhair, Seán agus Ronán Mac Eochain, Caoimhín Ó Gaelbháin, Diarmuid Ó Maolchiaráin, Conchubhar Mac Aodha, Pádraig Ó Máille ó Chathair na Gaillimhe agus Pádraig Ó Maille ón gCeathrún Rua, Antoin Ó Faoileaín, Pádraig Ó Murchú, Carl de Róiste, Seámus Ó Gliasáin, Niall 'O Colatúin, Darren Ó Braonáin, Micheál Ó Fallúin,

Seán Ó hAonghuse, Pádraig Ó Crotaigh, Pádraig Ó Broin, Micheál Ó Suilleabháin, Cionnaith Ó Riain, Peadar Mac Carthaigh, Marc de Leadús, Seán O Corcoráin, Uinsionn Ó Murchú, Aindriú Mac Tiarnáin, Carl Ó Direáin, Eamonn Ó Meachair, Antóin Ó Gradaigh, Eamonn Ó Suilleabháin gan ach cuid acu a lua, gaisce ar son na Gaeilge le linn dóibh bheith sa Choláiste.

Mar fhocal scoir, ní fioláir buíochas a ghabháil leis an bhfoireann díograsach a thugann tachaíocht, cúnamh agus spreagadh do no foirne díospóireachta, a chabhráionn leo ó cheann ceann na bliana agus is cinnta go bhfuil Brendán Ó Ruairc, Pádraig Ó Síoda, An t-Athair Aindriú, An t-Athair Éanna agus an t-Athair Ciarán bróduil as caighdéan na Gaeilge sa Cholasite. Gura fada buan iad.

Aodh Mac Domhnaill

Emmanuel Curtis was about to begin collating them when he was struck down by illness. Someone else will have to take on that task. The emphasis on exams has varied much over the decades. God be with the times when Matric. got you into any faculty your parents could afford. Donagh O'Malley and the points changed all that; but 'free' education was still an exciting concept.

The years from 1906-'49 are dominated by one man; Fr. Ailbe Sadlier. His reign as President from 1916 to his death in '49 made the college what it was when I came to know it in the fifties. Fr Francis Martin as Vice-President and Bursar and Fr. Placid Laffan as Dean of Studies made up the triumvirate who ran the college; but Ailbe was the 'boss'. Jack Murphy was the only lay teacher Ailbe consulted and Jack had no doubts about the limits of his influence.

The Children of Mary were an important

religious influence from the beginning but when Fr. Patrick Moloney established the Legion of Mary in the mid-forties, it became a major force and led either directly or indirectly to an amazing number of vocations to the priesthood. Its impact survived into the seventies when Vat. II altered perspectives.

The sixties became more outward-looking and debating, public speaking, lectures and seminars became a vogue. Dermot Tuohy produced Shakespeare with mighty flourishes. The results were impressive. They reached their zenith while Fr. Peter Garvey was President ('72-'84). The Legionaries still visited local old folks once a week and there was an annual get-together for senior citizens before Christmas, but a broader view of education prevailed.

Sporting activities were always encouraged but it was Fr. Joseph Power, with uncompromising efficiency, who

made the college noted for its athletics in the 40's. Fr. Aidan Cusack took over where Joseph left off; yet few of the athletes kept up that activity whereas the hurlers and the rugby players continued the sharpening of their skills. (Surprising the number of rugby internationals from a school which never won a Senior Cup).

But a College-history must be based on its students. House Captains were important from the earliest years. Food was ever a source of complaint. Dormitories were not important. Neither were physical hardships. Before the Pavilion was built inthe 30's, the students washed their feet in an open stream (now covered) and dried them in the grass. No problem. Togs and jerseys and boots had no home. Hot water was found only for an occasional bath in the infirmary. Camaraderie was far more significant and lifelong friendships were forged during long walks and fisticuffs and boxing encounters (occasional) under the Supervision of Fr. Gerard Burke.

These links were encouraged when the P.P.U. was formed in 1929 and further

strengthened by the recent class reunions which are now annual affairs.

Monks were doing everything from teaching to supervising to keeping accounts from the earliest years. Occasional teachers like Liam de Barra and Rody Ryan (hurling), Jack Murphy (Rugby), Peadar Walsh (Rugby and Athletics), Sean Bourke and Gerry Haves (Rugby) became prominent apart from their teaching but the monks owned the school and they ran it seven days a week. With the dearth of monastic vocations and the increasing age profile of the monks, a quiet revolution of a lavtakeover was organised by the monks. This was followed by the arrival of a Board of governors in '90 and a lay principal in '91. While a monastic presence is essential for our Cistercianrun school (the only Trappist one in the world), monks are less and less involved annually in the daily organising of the school. (Note: the monks of the other Cistercian observance have schools in central Europe).

How is the research progressing? Very,

very slowly. Pastmen at the abbevs of Nunraw, Moone and Roscrea have been most co-operative. So too were local pastmen of the senior kind. Noel Windle on March 5th, '91, organised a long meeting of 11 pastmen at his E.B.S. office. From it we got a 114 page manuscript full of memories. But pastmen do not like writing letters or putting their memories on paper. Most of my letters have not been answered. It has to be one-to-one interviews and that is slow and laborious work. I get a lift when someone like Denis Crowley ('20-'22), Fr. Bernard Kiely ('24-'29) and Aidan McNulty ('60-'65) send me their memories, but I have not got many lifts of this nature over the '91-'92 years. Maybe '93 will be livelier but I shall not hold my postbox free for them.

How about your special flavour, you who have read this? Do you wish to share in the history-making of your school?

Liam Maher

# **DUBLIN BRANCH - PROFILE**

CHAIRMAN – Simon Coyle HON. SECRETARY – Oliver Byrne HON. TREASURER – Barry O'Shea COMMITTEE – Conor Massey, Noel Windle, Aidan McNulty, Donal Taaffe, Kieran Fitzgerald, Mark Ryan, Donald Harrington, Eoin Rafferty, Hugh O'Neill, Cahal O'Connell, John Kinirons.

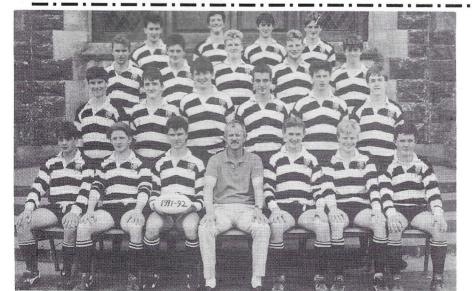
As can be seen from the above, the Dublin Branch Committee is the most cosmopolitan and broadly based branch in the Union compromising as it does all manner of individuals, the diversity of whose geographic origins is only surpassed by that of their ages and, as a consequence, their years in Roscrea. Within its ranks are seasoned campaigners, such as Noel Windle and Conor Massey to the relatively new-

comers in the form of Eoin Rafferty, Mark Ryan, Donald Harrington and Hugh O'Neill who are serving on committee for their first year. The strength of the branch centres on the number of functions which the committee promotes annually. At present these number three - an Annual Dinner, a Golf Outing and a Poker Classic and the committee are earnestly searching for further events to promote wider and stronger linkages amongst pastmen (young and not so young) in the Dublin area. The spread of activity throughout the year generally means that the committee is active from September through to the beginning of May and retires during the summer months. This summer the Dublin Branch has been active in the format;ion of a subcommittee to partner a similar team from Wanderers F.C. in raising a substantial sum of money to assist

Garrett Culliton who, tragically, was partially paralysed as the result of an injury during a rugby match in Naas last March. Garrett is a son of Gerry who is well-known to all Roscrea pastmen and, on behalf of the Union, the Dublin Branch subcommittee will be sending out a nationwide appeal to all branches and pastmen in a "call to arms" to organise as many fundraising ventures as possible towards this very deserving cause.

#### Diary Dates:-

Saturday, 7th November, 1992: Annual Stag Dinner United Service Club. If you would like information on the Dublin Branch or its activities, contact Simon Coyle at 761116 (O) or 2830196 (H).



S.C.T. 1991/92 - Semi-Finalists

# **SENIOR RUGBY 1991/1992**

## 1984 LAST SEMI-FINAL

The 1991/'92 senior rugby season started on a fairly low note with four straight defeats including a 30 to 4 point defeat by St. Mary's College in Roscrea. At that stage, the lofty height of Lansdowne Road were far from our thoughts. A morale boosting victory was needed to instill some confidence in a team with plenty of talent. Matters improved, a run of victories (7 matches) running rugby at its best, plenty of tries and confidence high. During this run, the cup draw was released – St. Mary's in the First Round. How would we cope with one of the favourites?

The days leading up to the first cup match always was tense, in particular for

the team. The atmosphere can be felt all over the school and expectations are always high. It was another tough draw but with the game being played in Portlaoise, our chances are always better. The match proved a revelation to Roscrea supporters. The lighter Roscrea pack took the game to the heavier St. Mary's eight. An excellent try after 15 minutes of intense St. Mary's pressure before half-time with the concession of only 3 points, the possibility of victory was there. A second Maurice Phelan try converted by Glenn Adams 20 minutes into the second half secured a famous victory for Roscrea and scenes worthy of a cup victory followed.

A second round trip to Donnybrook to play Wesley College (they defeated us in the Junior Cup two years previously). A very poor first half saw us 7 - 0 down and in trouble. A good second half saw us leading 10 - 7 until a last minute penalty left the score 10 - 10.

The replay saw Roscrea play some of their best rugby of the season. A good supply from the forwards saw some great running by our backs. Three tries and a penalty left us clear winners by 19 - 7 and a place at Landsdowne Road v. Terenure in the semi-final. Terenure proved to be the strongest team in schools' rugby in Leinster (if not Ireland), this year with one of the best drilled packs seen for many years. Their physical presence was just too much for a smaller and lighter Roscrea team who ran and covered as best as they could possible but could not stem the tide.

Terenure won 24 - 0 and were leading Belvedere College 19 - 0 before winning the final 19 - 6. It is always disappointing when you lose no matter what stage of the competition you are at, but this team can feel proud of their achievements and the type of rugby they played.

PANEL: J. O'Carroll (Capt.), J. Quinn, G. Barry, F. O'Hara, E. O'Carroll, G. Adams, M. Phelan, J. Lee, K. Kelly, E. McDonnell, J. McCormack, M. McGrane, S. Taggart, B. Brosnan, R. Canavan, P. Fleming, K. O'Sullivan, D. O'Regan, M. Moroney, B. Adams, P. Devine.

#### **ATHLETICS**

A fairly good year for Athletics with a good return of All Ireland Medals. HAMMER:

Senior – 1st John Monaghan Inter – 1st Michael McGinn 3rd Arthur Spring

Junior: 1st John Thompson (Record)
2nd Diarmuid Phelan

DISCUS:

Junior: 2nd Diarmuid Phelan

SHOT:

Junior: 3rd John Thompson Senior Relay Team 3rd John Quinn, J. O'Carroll, Declan Brady, John Hogan.

#### JOHN O'CARROLL 1987/'92

John arrived in Roscrea in 1987 and spent his first year with U/13 and U/14 'A', learning the main basics of rugby. In 1988, he played fullback on the Junior cup team.

During 1989, he broke into the senior cup team and from there his rugby career took off.

1990/'91 season saw him play for the Leinster schools and he completed the season with four International caps v. Wales, Scotland, England and Australia.

1991/92 – John was elected Captain of the Leinster Interpros and gained the further International caps v Wales, Scotland and England.

He is at present on tour with the Irish Schools in New Zealand and by gaining his cap there, will have received eight schoolboys caps which must be the highest number ever achieved?



John O'Carroll
A record number of Schools' Caps?

#### JACK DEVITT (1933-'36) -Died June 22nd, '92

I interviewed him for the college history on November 5th last. He died suddenly on June 22nd. He was deeply interested in the results of our meetings and was co-operative and gentle as was his wont. He had been to Sacred Heart College, Thurles for primary education and had spent a year at Castleknock College before coming to C.C.R. He was a native of Cashel and had another Cashel man, Mr. Dick Dwyer of Toomevara, as a contemporary at Roscrea.

He got the typhoid infection due to polluted water – (which closed the college from Christmas to Easter in '34 and took 4 monks and 4 students to their deaths). But Jack survived it without longterm damage, but it was traumatic.

He sat Matric. a year after his Inter. During the exam the boys were lying in the sun in front of the college when they heard a crash. Br. Columbus Meagher and labourer John Ryan (from nearby Milltown) died when an electric lift used at the construction of the Abbey belltower collapsed from 50 ft. Another traumatic experience for Jack.

# **OBITUARIES**

He studied law and set up practice in Roscrea in '49 (C.C.R. has kept the town well supplied with solicitors from the early years of this century). He soon built up a wide clientele. He was gracious, efficient and popular. He retained a lifelong love of rugby and was a keen golfer. He was a good community man.

His son John (1964-'69) died in a car accident in December 1977. Jack never ceased to mourn him.

A loyal pastman, a lively conversationalist, a loving family-man and committed churchgoer – that was Jack Devitt and much, much more. He is at peace.

His grandson Gareth (Doorley) is the third generation Devitt at the college.

To his wife Marie, daughter Sheila and son Mark our sympathy.

Liam Maher

## WILLIE COFFEY (Toomevara) 1923-'30 Died December 21st, 1991

Came to the college at age 11 and stayed 7 years. He recalled the first radio at the college – with the aerial at

the top of an elm tree opposite the big study hall. When the aerial broke in the wind Willie climbed up to fix it. He was a natural climber.

He cut 'scraws' for Fr. Jarlath to dam the Little Brosna for swimming. He remembered Jimmy Brady as a sharp but effective teacher of English. He (Willie) could quote Virgil at length just a month before he died. He and Gerry Bates kept the diary for the 1st Fiolar (1930) at Jimmy Brady's request.

He remembered Fr. Francis (Martin) as a shy, kindly man who caused uproar whenever he supervised the ref. There was a hard loaf doing the rounds for some days. Willie decided to throw it out the window. Ailbe was passing as the loaf landed. He entered the ref. holding the loaf aloft "Terrible thing. Whoever threw that could have killed one of our holy nuns". Good theatre. Poor Fr. Francis. "What's the budget?" "A thing for spraying spuds". National economy was not well-known then in Roscrea. Politics were not important. The Shannon Scheme was the big news.

Willie was a great talker with a marvellous memory. When Tom Hogan

of Birr died in the Infirmary – the only student ever to die at the college – the student body filed past the corpse. They also attended the funeral of Paddy Bourke of Portumna, brother of Fr. Gerard. He was preparing for the monastic life and had just left the school. Both deaths made a deep impression on Willie.

I am glad I interviewed him a few weeks before he died.

Liam Maher

Bart O'Doherty, 1929 - '31, Newmarket, Co. Cork.

William Shine, 1930 - '34, Macroom, Co. Cork.

**Thomas J. O'Dea,** born 1907, attended C.C.R. 1927 - '28. Monasterevan, Co. Kildare.

Civil and Public Services Association. C.P.S.A.

Editor of "Red Tape" 1956 - '74.

MBE - 1975; for services to Trade Unions.

**Kevin Collier,** 1936 - '40. Grangebellew, Drogheda.

# **NEWS ABOUT PASTMEN**

THE GARRETT CULLITON TRUST
Co
Many past pupils will have heard of the
Cis

serious spinal injuries suffered by Garrett Culliton last March while playing rugby for Wanderers Football Club. Since then except for brief visits home, he has been in the National Medical Rehabilitation centre in Dun Laoghaire. Although he is regained strength in his upper arms and shoulders, power has not fully returned to his hands and the normal functions of his lower body have been lost completely.

This injury has been a devastating blow to Garrett and the Culliton family and a shock to his friends and the college. Many past pupils will remember the Cullitons, Gerry his father and his brothers, Brian, Ronnie and Neil.

Although covered by the I.R.F.U. player insurance scheme and Wanderers own player insurance policy, the sum paid out will not be anything like enough to provide for Garrett's future needs and care. A trust has been set up in Garrett's name to raise funds and a year long programme of fund-raising has been planned. The union, along with Wanderers F.C., have joined forces to maximise these fund-raising efforts.

appealing to past pupils to make a contribution to the Garrett Culliton Trust and to support any functions for him which are held locally by your union branch. Any enquiries regarding the Trust should be addressed to:

The Garrett Culliton Trust, C/O Chapman Flood, Chartered Accountants, Mount Herbert Court, 34 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

#### **EAMONN WALL**

Eamonn Wall, C.C.R. left 1972 has been appointed Professor of English at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Eamonn, who is eldest son of Mike and Nancy Wall, Murphy-Floods Hotel was recently conferred with the Ph.D. Degree at the City University of New York. He had been previously teaching at the John Jay College in New York.

Dr. Wall was educated at the Loreto Convent, Enniscorthy C.B.S. and Cistercian College, Mount St. Joseph's, Roscrea. He is a B.A. graduate of U.C.D. and received his M.A. in English at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

#### MR. NEIL JOHNSON

Mr. Neil Johnson has recently been appointed Chief Executive of the West of Ireland Cardiology Foundation, based at University College Hospital, Galway. Mr. Johnson joins the Foundation from the Galway based Combined Action Youth/-Alcohol Abuse Prevention Project, where he was Project Director for the past four years.

A native of Co. Limerick, he holds a Masters Degree in Psychology from U.C.G. and last year became the first Irish person ever, to win the Junior Chamber International World Public Speaking Championship.

Engaged – April 1992
Ray Hernan – Suzanne O'Brien
Ray Ballygar, Co. Galway, and Suzanne,
Ranelagh Road, Dublin 6, are delighted
to announce their engagement.

Married – April 24th, 1992 Kevin Kelly – Eileen O'Shea Kevin – Wexford Eileen – Dublin.

Married – May 7th, 1992 Pat Murphy (Longford) – Barbara Long. Ardilaun Hotel Galway.

Former Irish International Jim Glennon (Skerries) has been appointed coach to the Leinster senior team for next season. He succeeds Brian McLoughlin who has been in charge for the past two years but who did not go forward for a third season.

Brothers – Left about 1970 - '73
Joseph O'Connor, University,
Hospital, Gronizen,
Holland.
Married to Lenny Tie Veldre – 2 children.

Pat O'Connor, Hendon Company, North London. Both from Thurles, their father is a past

student.

James Gavigan, 64 Rue Sombre, Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel.: 32 2 7629717 Married. 3 children.

Peter Gavigan (1975 - '80) 85 Quai Dorsay. 75007 Paris, France. 33 1 45 50 22 44



Neil Johnson

Donal Walsh – 1964 - '67 Newcastle West. Business. Married. 3 daughters.

Noel Walsh (1962 - '67) Rep. for Murphy's Cork — Living in Mallow. Married 3 children.

Mark Redmond (1979 - '84) Winner of the Craig Gardner Prize to Students of the Associateship of the Institute of Taxation. Mark was 1st House Captain 1n 1983/84.



Mark Redmond

Ardman Limited. 5 St. Andrew Street, Dublin. Director: V.L. O'Brien, Carrick-on-Suir (1975).

# **10 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD**

Fr. Nivard

Foretelling the future is not for anyone with sense, even though there is now a recognised science (if it merits the name - perhaps more of an art!) called futurology. But what I have to say here is not about futurology. There are decisions already made which will shape the future of C.C.R. and of the monastery. There are trends which are already apparent which will clearly persist into the future. If no one is joining the community, you do not have to be a futurologist to see that it will inevitably get smaller. If no one is joining any religious community except in very small numbers, then again it does not seem likely that Roscrea will buck that trend and be different.

The decline in monastic personnel is the biggest single factor governing the next ten years. At present the community still numbers 45, which is big for a monastery by any standard, except that of the past fifty years in Ireland. But that was an artificially inflated period as regards vocations and we should not take it as a norm. Ireland was very insular and we had a ghetto mentality. It has been said that the world writes the agenda for faith. We never went along with that in Ireland. The faith or rather the Church, wrote the agenda, and we could keep alien influence out, ban bad books (however you defined them) and as the government was Catholic, use the law to reinforce the moral teaching of the Church. The Church provided the idealism for the young people - the great ideal was the missionary vocation. In the 1950s we had as many priests working overseas as we had working in Ireland. And the hospitals and schools were run almost exclusively by religious. And their dedication was another ideal for youth. There is no need to condemn any of this - it was good.

But that world is gone. We cannot afford to be insular any longer. Forbid divorce and people simply part and "move in" with another partner anyhow. And the children have few rights for the union has no standing in law. Forbid abortion and people go to Britain and get it anyhow. Forbid books and they can be bought at Heathrow. We have realised how limited law is for solving social problems or for forming people's consciences.

So people are not joining monasteries as they did in the past. The new vocations will be 1/ older (after further education or after working for some years); 2/ clearer that they want monastic life as such and quite possibly they will not want to teach in school or be ordained priests; 3/ fewer. This means that in ten years time we will have a community of about 25 to 30. Right now about half the community are over seventy. No one lives forever. I do

not see the community ever rising much above about 25 again in our time in the forseeable future.

We have a large farm and farming is under threat. It is part of the changing world scene that fewer and fewer monasteries in the world are making their living from farming nowadays. In nine monasteries of monks I visited in the U.S.A this year, only two do so. The others depend on some industry. The monks are hard-working, self sufficient and clear about their identity. Maybe it will be different in Ireland, but why should it be? We are always saying we are different - I doubt it. I think we will go the way of most western industrialised nations, with an increasing drift away from the Church and hence again, fewer

So we will have a smaller community, and that means we will have to pull in the perimeters all around. Already this has happened in the college. With the creation of the Board of Governors (which has proved so beneficial) the monks are fewer in the government of the college and inevitably will be fewer on the staff. About ten years will see the present monks there reaching retiring age, and then we will have to decide what form our presence in the college will take. It will not be as it has been up to now. We are determined that it will continue, but it will simply have to take a different form because we will not have the men.

Sometimes when you say this, you get the reply "You don't know – God is good". Both those assertions are true, but the only answer I have to make to them is "Are you laying any bets?" There is no pendulum at work, and no tide to turn or

ship to come in. We live in a different world, and the monks must ask themselves what they can offer the world and the Church, and to do that they must first ask what do these need. Unless they answer that question first they are in danger of trying to sell a product that no one is interested in.

That C.C.R. will survive we have no doubt. There are no plans to reduce it in size, to phase any of it out, or to introduce cutbacks. Any changes that come will come from the inevitability of social change in the country, leading to change in the monastic community. And the changes I foresee are fewer monks around and so fewer in the school, and those that are there having a different role - less teacher and administrator, more adviser, religious influence and presence - rather like the leaven which Jesus talks of in the gospel. Which sounds as though it is what it should be! No one likes change but there are two points I would like to make. The chan that have been so far in C.C.R. are very considerable and they have worked very well. This is a good augury for the future. The other point is that you can either long for the past or ask yourself "What sort of future do we want?" and do something about creating it. The second way is the only way forward.

Fr. Nivard Kinsella born and educated in Dublin (CBS & CSSp) entered Roscrea in 1944. Spent two years in Tarrawarra at the beginning there; spent three years in Rome; doctorate in theology but now thinks Scripture more basic; believes there is nothing being done which cannot be done better.



lsh, Printers, Roscrea

Fr. Nivard - Prior