



Patron of our Union retires after 36 years.

The Lord Abbot of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey for the past 36 years, Dom Colmcille O'Toole OCSO, retired from the Abbacy on July 1st 2000. He also retired as Patron of our Past Pupils Union having served us with such loyalty and distinction for the past 36 years. Dom Colmcille is one of the longest serving abbots in the Cistercian Order and only the fifth Abbot in the 122-year history of Roscrea.

Born at Clogher, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, is the second eldest in a family of seven sons. His native parish is Ballintubber, famous



Title: Reception and Presentation Thurs, July 6th 2000
Backrow L-R:
Gearóid M.O'Brien (Editor "Roscrea Review"),
Michael MacNamara (Central Committee member),
Liam Spooner (General Treasurer), Frank Thompson,
Oliver Byrne, Donal Taaffe, (Central Committee members), Katherine Donovan (College Development Officer) Seated L-R Fr. Gabriel,
Fr. Dermot O' Colmain (General Secretary),
Aidan McNulty (President), Dom Colmcille O' Toole.
Absent from photo: Noel Windle and Fr. Kevin Daly,
Pat O'Shea (Past President), Kieran Fitzgerald (Dublin Branch Chairman), Conor Massey (General Treasurer)
Fr. Peter Garvey, Fr. Nivard Kinsella.

for its ancient Abbey restored some years ago. When he was elected Abbot in 1964, he was the first Abbot from Ballintubber since Walter MacEvilly at the Reformation. He won a Mayo Council Scholarship and Roscrea was the secondary school chosen for him. He was an excellent student, and during his years in the College he also showed leadership qualities, being President of the College Praesidium of the Legion of Mary and a House Captain.

He entered Mount St. Joseph on August 15th 1945. There was a big influx of young men to the Cistercians in the late 1940's. On

the day he was professed, September 28th 1947, there were eight young men receiving the habit, including the recently retired Abbot of Moone, Dom Ambrose Farrington. He was ordained by Most Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Bishop of Killaloe, on January 6th 1952, along with Fr. Carthage O'Dea, late of Tarrawarra and the late Fr. Michael Kitson. After ordination he was appointed to the teaching staff of the College. He was also Bursar in the monastery for a period before returning to the College as Dean of Studies.

On January 6th, 1964, the monastery was saddened by the death following a road accident of Dom Eugene Boylan. He had been Abbot for only eighteen months. The election of the new Abbot was on February 20th and Fr. Colmcille was chosen. He received the Abbatial blessing on April 12th 1964.

At 38, he was the youngest Abbot of Roscrea. He took up office at a very challenging time when Vatican II was in session and changes in the church were on the horizon. He also had the challenge of Bolton Castle near Moone, Co. Kildare, which had been left to the Cistercians in 1962. Dom Colmcille saw the foundation become a reality in 1965 with fifteen monks and would see it raised to the status of an Abbey. Writing in "Fiolar" (1989), the late Dom Benedict Kearns quoted Dom Colmcille on his pastoral role - "I

would say what I have been trying to do all the time was to enable the monks to be themselves, to create a climate where each monk can be himself and fulfil himself as a monk. One way I can enable the monks to be themselves is to make the monastery a place without tension, without strain, so that the monks can be relaxed - relaxed with each other, relaxed with the rule, relaxed with life. In that context the monk will be likely to be open to God and hear God talking to him".

There have been many important events in the 36 years of his abbacy. The renovation of the Abbey Church; the Centenary Celebrations of 1978 with open air Mass; the presence of the Papal Nuncio and President Hillary; the renovation of the guesthouse; visits to the Abbey by President de Valera and President Childers, Cardinal Hume, Cardinal Heenan, Cardinal Corripio, Mother Mary Martin, foundress of the Medical Missionaries of Mary;



President Aidan McNulty makes the presentation on behalf of our Union to Dom Colmcille O'Toole to mark his retirement as Abbot and Patron to our Union after 36 years.



Enjoying the Reception
L-R Katherine Donovan, Fr Dermot O' Colmain, Conor Massey.

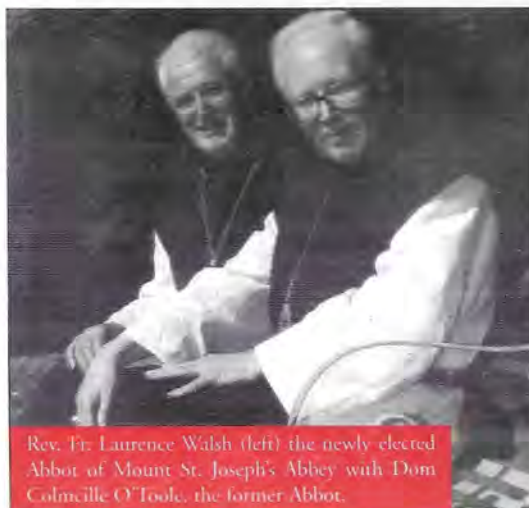


the election of Dom Benedict as first Abbot of Moone, and that of Dom David Tomlins as first Australian born Abbot of the daughter house at Tarrawarra; the development of the links with Ethiopian monasticism with three young Cistercians coming from Ethiopia in 1967 to study ecumenical links developed with the Church of Ireland holding one of its Diocesan synods at the Abbey. Archbishop Eames, Archbishop Empey, Bishop Darling and the late Archbishop Simms have also been visitors to the Abbey. Ordination retreats and young people's retreats for Limerick and Killaloe diocese have been held at the monastery. Bishop Darling describes Dom Colmcille as a very warm friend, always very helpful. There is too, the housing of the Roscrea History Conferences with George Cunningham, first held in 1987 and still going strong.

There have been many major developments with the College as well; the new classroom block in 1972, the swimming pool in 1974, the renovation of the College Chapel in 1983, the new Link Building in 1996 and the new Sports Complex opening last September.

To honour his retirement and service to our Union, The Central Committee decided to make a presentation to him on your behalf of a Travel Voucher and separately to commission a Portrait and Plaque which will be hung in the College. A reception and presentation was held in the Guesthouse on Thursday, July 6th at 7.30 p.m. President of our Union, Aidan McNulty made the presentation to Dom Colmcille thanking him for his unique contribution.

Roscrea man is Sixth Abbot.



Rev. Fr. Laurence Walsh (left) the newly elected Abbot of Mount St. Joseph's Abbey with Dom Colmcille O'Toole, the former Abbot.



Fr. Laurence Walsh with his cousin, Bishop Willie Walsh.

Laurence after he had received the keys, seal of the monastery and pectoral cross, the bell of the Abbey church pealed and the monks proceeded to the Church singing the Te Deum Laudanus.

Fr. Laurence is a member of the very well known Walsh family from Cambli. He received his primary education at the local Boys N.S. while assisting in the family hardware business, which was situated in Rosemary Street in Roscrea town.

Fr. Laurence attended the College and following his Leaving Certificate, he joined the Cistercian Order. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1953 and from 1960 to 1981 he served as Prior at the Abbey in Roscrea. For the past number of years he has held the prestigious position of Bursar at the Abbey.

President of our Union, Aidan McNulty recently wrote to Fr. Laurence to convey the congratulations and best wishes of the Past Pupils Union on his election as Abbot of Mount St. Joseph's. Aidan also acknowledged and welcomed him as Patron of the Past Pupils Union. On behalf of the Union, Aidan assured Fr. Laurence of our loyalty and support. We all look forward to working with Fr. Laurence, as Patron, for the benefit of our Union and the Cistercian ethos, which we respect and cherish. Bishop Willie Walsh conferred the abbatial blessing on Fr. Laurence on the feast of St. Bernard, Sunday 20th August at 3 p.m. Fr. Laurence is also a regular contributor to the "Review".

For the first time in its 122-year history a native son of Roscrea has been elected Abbot of Mount St Joseph. Rev. Fr. Laurence Walsh, cousin of Most Rev Willie Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe was elected as the new Abbot to succeed Dom Colmcille O'Toole.

Dom Eamonn Fitzgerald Abbot of Mount Melleray, presided at the election on Friday 21st July 2000. There were representatives from Mount Melleray, Sancta Maria, Nunraw Bolton, Asmara (Eritera), Glenstall, Tautra (Norway), Bamenda (Cameroon), Melafont, Portglenone, Mount St. Bernard (England), and Glencairn at the monastery. Following ratification from Rome of the election of Fr.

Frank Smyth retires after 9 years.



Frank Smyth took up his position as Principal/Dean of Studies in CCR, in September 1991. For the past nine years he has shown himself to be a true educator in the very best sense of the word. Always acutely conscious of the ethos and traditions of the College and the Monastery, he has worked tirelessly and imaginatively with the monks, residential staff and with his teaching colleagues to help the boys reach their full potential.

Over the years of his stewardship, he demonstrated conscientious interest in each and every student, in particular those who were vulnerable or those with special difficulties. The boys in return responded to him in voices of utmost respect and loyalty. Time and again individual boys would, with the searing honesty and insight of the young, be ever ready to say, "Mr. Smyth is sound". His always patient, courteous and generous response to anxieties about academic, moral or social development made parents feel absolutely secure.

Frank's insistence on a strict but always just code of discipline in his approach to the day to day running of the school, was accepted by all. Tempered always with natural kindness and humanity, his methods of dealing with behavioural problems were wise and always profoundly thoughtful.

Frank's thorough understanding of adolescence itself, together with his great gift of compassion and unique communication skills, made the road for many boys easier. His genuine love for his work, for CCR and above all for the boys, was always deeply felt and appreciated by everyone.

Frank Smyth has been accepted to study for a Masters in Pastoral Leadership at All Hallows College, Dublin.

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of the "Review".

Thanks to all who sent in material (text or photos) for this edition. I do my best to include at least some part of everything received. Keep the material coming in! As can be seen from this edition, a lot of changes have occurred both at the College and the Monastery. Various articles of Branch functions only highlight the enormous activity and the strength of our Union.

The cover story highlights the change of Abbot at Mount St. Joseph's. We, as past students, thank Dom Colmcille O'Toole for his unique contribution to our Union for the last 36 years.

We also congratulate Dom Laurence Walsh on his appointment as

Lord Abbot and welcome him as Patron of our Union. We assure him of our loyalty and support and look forward to working with him, as Patron, for the benefit of our Union and the Cistercian ethos, which we respect and cherish.

Changes at the College have also occurred with the retirement of Frank Smyth as Principal/Dean of Studies, and from the teaching Staff Brendan O'Rourke, Mary Spain and Fr. Bonaventure Melvin. We wish Frank, Brendan, Mary and Fr. Bonaventure a happy retirement and all the best for the future.

History was made recently at CCR, when teacher and hurling coach Hugh McDonnell took his senior team to win CCR's first All Ireland title. Congratulations Hugh and well done to the lads! We are very proud of your achievement.



Gearóid M. O'Brien
Class 1985

“Roscrea Review Financial Situation.

3,000 past students receive the “Review” twice a year. The two editions of the “Review” cost almost £9,000 to produce and distribute each year. At Central Committee level, pastmen have discussed the massive cost to the Union. The records show that 33 pastmen have an annual standing order to contribute to the cost of producing the “Review”. Measures therefore had to be taken to make past students’ twice-yearly newsletter financially viable and to continue in circulation.

1. Advertisement.

It is hoped that in the next edition pastmen will avail of the opportunity to advertise their Company/Business etc. at an affordable cost. For a fee, you will receive advertising space. Details are still been worked out but if you are interested, contact the Editor.

2. Standing Order.

Enclose with this edition is a Standing Order form to be completed by you requesting your annual contribution of £20 for your two “Reviews” each year. Also supplied is a prepaid envelope. We ask you to complete and return this form, to ensure the future of our newsletter is secure.

Once again I draw your attention to the “Attention Pastmen” slip below. We are constantly updating our files so it’s important for you to inform us of any changes in your address etc. The slip below is also used for each “Review” for news of pastmen.

Finally, thank you to Katherine Donovan, College Development Officer, for her enormous help given to me over the last few months in the preparation of this edition.

Remember, send material for the “Review” to Katherine at the College or directly to me at:

“Ballymalone”,
1 Appian Close,
Ardkeen Village,
Dunmore Road,
Waterford.

Tel: (051) 843002
Mobile: (086) 8279463
E-mail: gercait@gofree.indigo.ie



ATTENTION PASTMEN.

Are you receiving the “Roscrea Review”? twice a year, posted directly to your present address.

If not, or if the “Review” is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen.

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



Name : Year Entered:..... Year Left:.....
 Home Address:..... Occupation:.....
 Business
 Address:.....

 Home Tel:..... Work Phone:..... Fax:.....
 Mobile:..... Fax:..... E-mail:.....

College Contact Numbers: Phone : (0505)21045/23344 Fax : (0505) 22066
 E-mail at mtjoseph@iol.ie Web sit: http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph

Please detach and return



NEXT ISSUE : Congratulations to Brendan O'Rourke & Mary Spain and Fr. Bonaventure Melvin on their recent retirement from the college teaching staff of CCR

Historic First Title For CCR.



The date of April 16th 2000 will be remembered as one of the greatest days in the history of Cistercian College, Roscrea. We beat St. Declan's, Kilmacthomas, by 3-14 to 4-6 to be crowned All Ireland "B" Hurling Champions for the first time. The ghosts of 1947, 1986, 1987 and 1997 have been exorcised. Hugh Mc Donnell had coached a successful All Ireland winning team after thirty years of toil.

At the beginning of the year we believed we had a better than average team. John O'Brien had played in the All Ireland Minor final with Tipperary; Redmond Barry had spent a summer working with Liam Griffin's Wexford Minors and Tom Walsh had captained the Carlow Minors. Peter Garvey, son of Tom, Chairman of the Hurling Support Group (HSG) was elected Captain in September.

The opening rounds of the Leinster Championship are played on a league basis. We recorded big wins over St. Michael's, Trim, Salesians from Cellbridge and Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin. It was clear that we were very strong up the middle and that for a change we had plenty of scoring power. Hughie played two very talented hurlers at wingback, Pat Mc Intyre and Andrew O'Brien. Soon after the start of second term the boys hammered the Laois Minors in a challenge. Staff and pupils alike began to whisper about the possibility of Leinster and All Ireland titles.

By virtue of winning our league section we had a home draw against Colaiste Eoin, Dublin in the Leinster Quarterfinal. We had been lucky to beat Colaiste Eoin by one point in the 1997 Leinster final and so we expected a hard game. However, Hugh Maloney from Nenagh scored three opportunist goals in the first seven minutes and thereafter we were always in control. Our opponents in the semi-final were Colaiste Eanna from Dublin, a school that had hammered us in the Leinster Junior semi-final the previous year. The boys played superbly

and the game was wrapped up before half time. Our half backs were hurling superbly while Redmond Barry and Noel Maloney; who had both played in the Senior Schools Rugby final in 1999, were displaying superb skills and terrific athleticism.

We faced Castlecomer Community School in the Leinster final on March 24th. We wondered if Alan Flaherty would be able to contain the brilliant Eddie Brennan, son of the famous Michael "Clooney" Brennan. Alan rose to the occasion and Brennan's only score came five minutes from the end. This was a dream performance. Johnny O'Brien rifled over fourteen points, Peter Garvey hurled like a colossus and our mid-fielders showed class with superb deliveries to the attack. We scored 2-22 with a Hugh Maloney goal and a Tom Walsh point remaining etched in the memories of those privileged to be present. Brian Connolly, son of Galway's legendary Joe, had a superb game as had Ivan Mc Carthy from Abbeydorney, Co. Kerry at corner back. At fifteen Ivan was the youngest player on our team.

After a convincing Leinster final display, we were installed as All Ireland favourites. We were surprised to learn that Garbally College from Ballinasloe would be our opponents. We quickly learned that they would feature twelve players from the great Kiltormer Club. The Garbally match, played in Nenagh, proved to be the toughest of the year. Their mid-fielders and half-forwards ran at our backs and we were relieved to hear the final whistle after holding on by four points. This was Brian Connolly's best performance and Johnny O'Brien shot ten points.

We were now one hour away from the ultimate prize. Hughie kept them ticking over. Disaster struck a week before the final when



Back Row - (L - R) :

Alan Flaherty, John Phelan, Thomas Walsh, Pat Mc Intyre, Gerald Corcoran, Brian Connolly, Noel Maloney & Hugh McDonnell.

Front Row - (L - R) :

Hugh Maloney, Redmond Barry, Andrew O'Brien, Frank Hegarty, Peter Garvey (Captain), Cian Begley, Ivan McCarthy & John O'Brien

John and Andy O'Brien both suffered hand injuries in club games. We heard a lot of good reports about the quality of St. Declan's, especially their best forward Jack Kennedy. The weather turned sour as Sunday, April 16th approached. Fleece jackets, togs, stockings and kit bags were sponsored by the HSG for the College and by Johnny Mc Donnell, our lucky bus conductor for the campaign.

Sunday proved cold and wet in Clonmel sports field. John O'Brien looked decidedly uncomfortable as the team warmed up. We started shakily and Jack Kennedy shook our net with two magnificent goals in the first fifteen minutes. The picture looked bleak as we trundled into the dressing rooms at half time. It was then that Hughie showed his managerial genius. The boys emerged from his pep talk like men possessed. In the second half we were first to every ball and our physical strength proved valuable. Tom Walsh shot a great goal and John O'Brien scored points from all angles and distances. Jack Kennedy scored two more goals against us in the middle of the half. Scores were level with seven minutes to go. Then John O'Brien scored two





valuable points before Conor Phelan crashed home a superb goal after a Brian Connolly hand-pass.

various hurling teams in the school. We now compete in three Tipperary schools competitions and this has greatly benefited the standard of our game.

Scenes of bedlam greeted the final whistle. Tears were shed as players, pupils, parents and pastmen gave vent to their emotions. John Stokes and Jim Fogarty from the 1947 team were there, Aidan Spooner from the 1964 team and most of the great hurlers of the eighties and nineties. Pat O'Shea, captain of the 1956 senior team, was thrilled to be there. The Dublin Branch was represented by Messrs. Taaffe, Mc Nulty, Windle, Massey and Branigan. Barney Sherry, whose contribution to the founding of the Hurling Support Group will not be forgotten, was a happy man. Joe Daly and Sean Murphy represented the West. Gerald Mc Carthy, Chairman of the Board of Governors, joined in the celebrations and Brendan Hyland was thrilled with the performance of his nephew, Conor Phelan. Ollie Byrne, captain of the victorious 1983 Juvenile team, was there with his mother, Mary and his fiancée. Michael O'Carroll represented RTE. Most of the CCR entourage then adjourned to the Hotel Minella where a memorable social evening ensued.

Most of all it was Hughie's day. He had come very close to an All Ireland in 1986 and 1997. For thirty years he had toiled ceaselessly for the game of hurling in the school, often without much support. He has married a deep knowledge and passion for the game with a superb facility to motivate and manage players. His sense of humour persisted through good times and bad. In victory and defeat he showed dignity and modesty. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann!

The turning point for hurling in the College was the founding of the Hurling Support Group (HSG) in April 1998. Before his untimely death, John Comerford did trojan work as the first chairman. He was followed by Cuimin O Dubhghaill and later by Tom Garvey. Dan Ahern and Ann Mc Guckin (secretary) do sterling work. However, the hurling coaches in the school are most in debt to Niall Doogue who organises the Golf Classic and also liaises with the school coaches throughout the year. Thanks to the HSG we were able to organise a four school eight team blitz on March 31st 2000, at Under 15 level. Hurlies are purchased, promotional material supplied and meals are provided after all matches for the

As the school was officially closed for Easter holidays on the day of the final a special homecoming had to be organised. The boys on the panel were given an extra day's holiday. On Tuesday, May 2nd the parents and hurlers assembled in Roscrea Golf Club at 11.00 a.m. where light refreshments were served. Johnny Mc Donnell drove the boys in cavalcade to the college. The boys received a tumultuous reception from the student body. Father Abbot, Father Peter and Mr Gerry Hayes, Gamesmaster spoke. For once Hughie was stuck for words! Captain, Peter Garvey replied on behalf of the team and thanked everyone who supported the team in any way during the campaign. The parents were then treated to a buffet lunch in the college parlours. The homecoming proved to be a memorable climax to a memorable year.

Congratulations to Hughie and the panel on reaching the promised land. Thanks for the marvellous memories you have given us. We look forward to a new adventure in the "A" Division in the year 2000/2001.

CCR Union Calendar 2000.

Saturday, August 26th

Class of 1989 Reunion
Venue: Cabra Castle, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan
Contact: Eoghan Comerford

Thursday, September 7th

The Matt Hyland Perpetual Golf Trophy
The Windle Ladies Perpetual Golf Cup
Venue: Milltown Golf Club
Contact: Kieran Fitzgerald (086) 2851096

Saturday, Sept 16th

Lord Abbots Cup Golf Competition
Venue: Roscrea Golf Club Tee Times available from 9.00 a.m. (All Tee Times must be pre-booked)
Entry Fee Golf (including Green Fees) £25
Contact: Gerry Hayes | Aileen Spillane
Phone (0505) 23344 or 087 2224253
Fax (0505) 22066
Dinner £20
Dinner Bookings only through Liam Spooner

(0505) 21063 Venue: Roscrea Golf Club
Accommodation

A limited amount of accommodation is available in the local area. Please contact Katherine Donovan to confirm same (0505) 21045

25 Year Reunion (Class of '75) Grants Hotel, Roscrea

Contact: Hugh Carthy (061) 3705105
carthyh.ennis@tinet.ie

Reunion Mass in College Chapel @: 5.00 p.m. Sherry Reception in College 6.00 p.m.
Reunion Photographs @ 6.45 p.m.

September 17th

Union Day at CCR
Union Mass 11.00 a.m. in the Abbey
Church Central Committee Meeting @ 12.30 p.m.

Buffet Lunch in Senior Refectory 1.30 p.m.
Past V Present Rugby Match @ 3.00 p.m.
Past V Present Hurling Match @ 3.00 p.m.

Friday, October 20th

North American Branch Annual Dinner
Venue: Lanagan's Restaurant, 47th Street, New York

Contact: Mr Noel Mc Carthy, 460 State Street, North Haven, Ct 06437

Phone: 001 203 2878631

Fax: 001 203 2872408

Email: cpnoel@sprintmail.com

Time: 7.30 p.m. Cocktails & Dinner \$60

Friday, Nov 3rd to Sunday, Nov 5th

Kenmare Weekend
Venue: Park Hotel, Kenmare
2 nights B&B (Friday Night Dinner & Gala Dinner) £190 p.p. £40 Single Room
Supplement 1 Night B&B (Plus Gala Dinner) £125 p.p. Extra night, Dinner, B&B £95 p.p. (Early booking essential as places are limited)

Contact John Brennan at The Park Hotel (064) 41200

Friday, November 10th

Dublin Branch Dinner
Hibernian United Service Club, Stephens Green, Dublin @ 7.30 p.m.
Contact: Kieran Fitzgerald (087) 2851096 or E-mail: fitzgek@rte.ie

Friday, November 17th London Branch Informal Dinner

Venue: O'Connor Don, 88 Marylebone Lane, London W1. Advance booking is advisable - Cost £20 per person

Contact: Fergal Keane, 61 Malvem Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1EH

Phone: 0044 181 7651671 or

John Yurky 00441712670481

Email: yurkeycross@compuserve.com

Hurling Support Group Golf Classic.

Roscrea Golf Club was yet again the venue for the first HSG Annual Golf Classic of the New Millennium, on July 8th last. The magnificent course and facilities at Roscrea Golf Club were put at our disposal, at a time when conditions were at their best. We express our genuine gratitude to the President, Captains, Committees and members of the Club for their hospitality.

52 teams of 4 (208 people) graced us with their presence. Not every team can win, but we hope everyone enjoyed the experience of having a shot at it. Without the generosity, kindness and loyalty of our sponsors this event would not have been a success.

Hugh McDonnell was caught at long last! To say the man was speechless is an understatement, and that was in both languages! The HSG made a presentation of a set of golf clubs to Hugh on the night, in recognition for his 30 years involvement in hurling coaching in the College.

Prize Winners

- 1st Tullamore Frozen Foods 98 pts
Ken Kellaghan, John Harte, Noel Guing & Kevin Guing.
- 2nd Gallaghers Ltd. 97 pts
Frank Quaid, Mai Quaid, John Cullen & Pat Byrne.
- 3rd Pat O'Shea Kilkenny Ltd. 97 pts
Pat O'Shea, Joe O'Shea, Donal O'Brien & John Cahill.
- 4th Kaideen Knitwear 96 pts
Niall Doogue, Vincent O'Hara, Fr. Peter Garvey & Cormac McCarthy

A special All Class prize went to the Class of 1987 team comprising of Anthony Delahunty, Liam Slevin, Tom Finlay & Paul O'Shea.

The All Ladies team prize went to Cait Ní Laoingsigh, Monica Phelan, Bríd Carter & Helen Shackelton.



Presentation to Hugh McDonnell for 30 years dedication



Class 1987 Team Anthony Delahunty, Paul O'Shea, Liam Slevin & Tom Finlay



Class 1988 Team. John Hackett, Tony Shorthall, Darragh O'Connor & Declan Murphy



Tim Carey (second from left) who played on the 1939 team that won a Munster Championship along with John Stokes (immediate right) who played on the 1947 Leinster winning team. Also in picture are Tom Garvey and Niall Doogue. (HSG)



HSG presentation to Hugh & Nora McDonnell by Tom Garvey & Niall Doogue



General Meeting.

Notice of an extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Cistercian College, (Roscrea) Union:

TAKE NOTICE

that on Friday 8th December 2000 at 6.00pm at Cistercian College, Roscrea, an extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Cistercian College (Roscrea), Union shall be convened pursuant to Rule Number 20 of the Union Rules (1958) Edition to discuss and decide upon the matters set out in the attached agenda.

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2000

Aidan McNulty, Union President
Fr. Dermot O'Comain, Reverend General Secretary

AGENDA:

Proposal: That the members of the union accept in full the Revised constitution presented by the chairman of the constitutional review sub-committee, Donal Taaffe; as approved by the Abbot and union patron, Dom. Laurence.

Proposed Bye-Law: The five most recent past chairmen of each branch of the Union shall be invited to seek co-option to the Central Committee and this invitation shall be extended either by the General Secretary or by the Union President at the Annual General Meeting of the Union or at any other time that may be deemed appropriate by the Central Committee.

Union A.G.M. May 20th 2000.

A large number of pastmen, Katherine Donovan (College Development Officer) & Fr. Peter Garvey (Acting College President) attended the first Union AGM of the Millennium at the College. Following detailed discussions on general finance of our Union, "The Review" and Calendar of events, Cuimin Doyle addressed the meeting with his end of office President's report.

Cuimin Doyle presented the Chain of Office to Aidan McNulty, 41st President of the Union. Gerry Maher was elected to the office of President Elect.

Conor Massey and Liam Spooner will continue in their role as Joint Union Treasurers and Fr. Dermot continues as Rev. General Secretary.

Immediately after the A.G.M. Aidan McNulty invited the Chairmen of the three Sporting Support Groups to present their annual reports. Pat Crotty presented the Rugby Development report, Tom Garvey presented the Hurling Support Group report and Aidan McNulty presented the Athletics Support Group report. Following the A.G.M. Fr. Peter Garvey, Katherine Donovan and pastmen dined at the College.



CUIMIN DOYLE PRESENTS THE CHAIN OF OFFICE TO AIDAN MCNULTY 41st PRESIDENT



AIDAN MCNULTY & REV. GENERAL SEC. FR. DERMOT



L-R LIAM SPOONER (GENERAL TREASURER) & KIERAN FITZGERALD (DUBLIN BRANCH CHAIRMAN)



PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT ELECT (AIDAN MCNULTY & GERRY MAHER)



ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN



FR. PETER IN DEEP CONVERSATION WITH CONOR MASSEY



AIDAN MCNULTY & LARRY BRANIGAN



L-R TOM GARVEY (HURLING SUPPORT GROUP) KATHERINE DONOVAN (DEVELOPMENT OFFICER) & PAT CROTTY (RUGBY DEVELOPMENT GROUP)

Annual Dinner hosted by the Midland Branch.

The Annual Union Dinner hosted by the Midland Branch on Friday 7th April lived up to the high standard set by the 1999 Midland Branch dinner at the same venue. Golf in the afternoon at the Esker Hills Golf and Country club set the atmosphere for a really enjoyable Union event. As dusk turned to darkness on this bright Spring evening pastmen with courts, parents and friends gathered in the spacious precincts of the Tullamore Court Hotel for liquid refreshment and convivial conversation. Midland Branch members were everywhere welcoming visitors from near and far led by Chairman Frank Thompson (1968) ably supported by Michael Brody (1968), Paul Fitzpatrick (1972) who organised the golf competition, previous chairman Andy Galvin (1959), Donal Hogan (1967), Tom Stokes (1967) along with Tom Maher (1959) and Shaun Wrafter (1964). The dinner was enhanced by the presence of Dom. Colmcille O'Toole (1945). Fr Peter Garvey (1955) Acting President, Hugh McDonnell and Katherine Donovan, Development Officer, accompanied by her husband Joe. Minister Brian Cowan (1977) in spite of a very busy schedule, honoured the occasion by his presence accompanied by his wife Mary. Political affiliation however, was not entirely one sided on the night because Tom Enright T.D. (1960) from Birr attended with his wife Rita.



CCR Union Annual Dinner, Tullamore Court Hotel, Friday 7th April 2000.
L - R - Shaun Wrafter (1964) and Tom Maher (1959)
"Counting The Money"

Union Annual Dinner Hosted By the Midland Branch in Tullamore Court Hotel on 7th April 2000.
L - R: John Thompson (1995), Niall Murphy (1987), Niall Murphy (1992), Keith Murphy (1995) and David Thompson (1998)



Union Annual Dinner, Tullamore, 7th April 2000
L - R :
Rita and Tom Enright, Larry and Adeline Branigan

Union Annual Dinner in Tullamore, 7th April 2000
Dom. Colmcille O'Toole (1947) addressing the audience with Frank Thompson (1968), Chairman of the Midland Branch in the Background



Union Annual Dinner in Tullamore, 7th April 2000.
L - R : Abbot Dom Colmcille O'Toole (1945), Union President Cuimin Doyle (1952), Mrs Mary Cowan and Minister Brian Cowan.

Western Branch Function.



Bhí fáilte UíCheallaigh roimh dream mór at The Westwood House Hotel, Galway on Saturday 11th March. Ceiliúradh athbheochan Craobh an Árthar den Comhaltas Choláiste Cistéirseach a bhí ar siúil. In 'The City of the Tribes' perhaps "fáilte UíMháille" is more appropriate.

Organised by Pádraic Ó Máille (1979) Chairman, John Sherry (1965), and a dedicated committee this memorable event commenced with a champagne reception followed by a superb meal, competitions, draws and prizes, something for everyone. Mass on Sunday morning was celebrated by Acting President of the College Fr. Peter Garvey (1955) assisted by a reverent if slightly husky congregation who nevertheless gave a celestial rendition of the 'Salve Regina'. Every generation of past-men from the 1930's to the late 1990's was represented. The "seniors" of the evening were the Sherry brothers from Foxford, Co. Mayo. Seamus (1933), President of the Union 1958 - 1960, Barney (1940) who lives in Dublin and Kevin (1941) also from Foxford. The "juniors" were Barry Aherne, House Captain

1997 - 1998 and Eoin Ó Máille (1998),

both students at NUIG.



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. L - R Neil Johnson (1979), Paddy O'Malley (1990) and Eoin O'Máille (1998)



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. L - R : John Sherry (1965) and Eddie O'Sullivan (Dean of Residence)



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. L - R : Denis Gunning (1973), John O'Meara (1972) and Gerry Maher (1973)



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. Sherry Brothers L -R : Seamus Sherry (1933), Kevin Sherry (1941) and Barney Sherry (1940)



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. L - R : Mark O'Boyle (1997), Barry Aherne (1998), Gary McInerney (1997), Raymond Hannify (1997) and Eoin O'Máille (1998)



Western Branch Function, Westwood House Hotel, Galway, Saturday 11th March 2000. L - R : Sean Murphy (1960) and Tom Garvey (1961)



South West Branch Function.

Friday 19th May 2000 .The sun shone brilliantly in a cloudless sky as pastmen with wives family and friends gathered for the races in Mallow followed by dinner. For many it was a first

visit to the new Cork Racecourse reconstructed under the professional expertise of architect Gerald McCarthy (1956) and engineer Seamus Mulherin (1967). Brendan O'Rourke was on hand mar shaineólaí chun comhairle a thabhairt as Gaeilge nó Béarla.

Fr Peter Garvey (1955), Acting President, revealed an eye for form not mentioned in the Rules of St. Benedict while Paddy Abernethy (1942) wondered if the jockeys had had their fill of 'Abernethys Bread' that morning. Donal McCarthy (1952) and cousin Gerard McCarthy (1955) were trying to find out which horses had been transported by Volvo trucks before placing their bets whereas Cuimín Doyle (1952), Union President, and Johnny (Sean) Walsh (1954) were looking for any evidence of disease or malnourishment in either horse or jockey. Cathal Bredin (1960) with practiced eye provided an instant report on the respiratory function of each 'nag', dentist John Kenny (1960) focused on the teeth and Ger Malone (1962) assessed joint movement with engineering precision. Meanwhile Fergal O'Gara (1967) and Liam Kelly (1967) argued about the biotechnological as opposed to the microelectronic influences on form but John McGowan (1968), a businessman and former banker would have none of this. To him and to accountant Gerard O'Meara it was all about the best return on investment. This approach was supported by Conor O'Flynn (1947) former Union president (1974 - 1976) and by sons Con A. O'Flynn (1970) a director of Fyffes and Jim O'Flynn (1971) a supermarket supremo. Farmer John Walsh (1983) looked for strength in the hoof from good grazing while lawyers Feargal Doyle (1980) and Bill O'Donnell (1984) enjoyed being among those happily exercising the constitutional right to associate, although naturally concerned that the bonhomie would not degenerate to riotous assembly. In the end the 'bookies' won, form was forgotten and minds turned to the dinner menu. An excellent meal was followed by

short speeches from the Southwest Branch Chairman Seamus Mulherin, Fr. Peter and Cuimin Doyle.

Times Past.

"Going Home" 1946



In 1946 Pat McCarthy, Michael Heenan, and Con Breen wait as their luggage is loaded onto a cart. They then walked alongside the cart from the College to Roscrea train station.

"The Pom's Gang" 1946



L-R Tom Foley, Hilary O'Rourke, Eamon Leahy & Denis Shaw.

1945 Opera "Bohemian Girl"



Left: Joseph V. O' Loughlin (CCR 1941-1946)
Right: James A. Fehily (CCR 1943-48). Designer of the swimming pool at CCR.



What song? What song? What song?



CCR South West Branch Function, Cork Racecourse Friday 19th May 2000
"Studyup Form" Lena Doyle, Brendan O'Rourke & Cuimin Doyle (1952)



CCR South West Branch Function, Cork Racecourse Friday 19th May 2000
L-R: Seamus Mulherin (1962), Cuimin Doyle (1952) and Fr. Peter Garvey (1955)



CCR South West Branch Function, Cork Racecourse Friday 19th May 2000
L-R: Gerry Malone (1962), Ann & Liam Kelly (1967), Seamus Mulherin (1967) & Joan Malone.



CCR South West Branch Function, Cork Racecourse Friday 19th May 2000
"The Three Peters"
L-R: Peter O'Regan (1947), Peter Somerfield (1961), Peter Power (1937).

Pat Creagh's 30 years involvement with CCR acknowledged by Pastmen.

Saturday 25th March 2000, at Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Oliver Byrne organised a gathering of pastmen to celebrate 30 years of Pat Creagh's involvement with the College. Pat Creagh's name is synonymous with hammer throwing in the College. He has coached more hammer-throwing champions (schools) than any other person in the country. For the past 30 years, Roscrea students have always featured at top level. President Cuimin Doyle, Fr. Peter Garvey (Acting President) and on behalf of the Athletic Support Group Oliver Byrne all spoke of Pat's unique contribution that he has made to hammer throwing and athletics in general at the College. They thanked him for his dedication and commitment over the 30 years. They also spoke of his unrivaled success and his All Ireland Champions (too numerous to count). There were messages from Noel Lynch (1976-1981) and Conor McCullagh (1974-1979) from the USA. Conor went on to throw the hammer at Olympic level.

Hammer Throwers present.

John Thompson (presently on a scholarship to Trinity College)

Tom Murphy, Oliver Byrne, Andrew Coady, Joe Byrne, Martin Kelly, Seamus Lanigan-Ryan, Neil Nolan, Eddie Byrne, and Pat's nephew Michael Creagh.



L - R :
Oliver Byrne and Aidan McNulty

L - R : Liam Spooner, Conor Massey,
Liam Moloney.



L - R : Joe Byrne, Michael Creagh,
Michael McNamara, Gerry Hayes



L - R Neil Nolan, Seamus
Lanigan-Ryan, Martin Kelly



L - R : Noel Windle, Barney Sherry,
Tom Ambrose.



L - R : David & Frank Thompson,
Tom Murphy, John Thompson.



L - R : Fr. Peter Garvey, Pat Creagh,
Cuimin Coyle.



Transition Year in CCR.

We organised our first Transition Year Programme in Cistercian College in the school year 1994-'95. Some schools had been running such programmes since the 1970's. A long and intensive debate began in our school after Mr. Frank Smyth arrived as Principal in 1991. Many of our teaching staff felt that our school was too academically oriented to benefit from a T.Y. Programme. Therefore, we began our first TY in September 1994 with a mixture of enthusiasm and apprehension.

What is Transition Year? It is an education idea that is unique to Ireland. It is a year which bridges the gap between the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The basic academic subjects are studied, though in a more liberal manner than in the Leaving Certificate Programme. The year allows students to mature and develop before undertaking the Leaving Certificate Curriculum. Many fifteen year olds are not ready to make decisions on their choice of subjects, a choice which will have a big bearing on their careers after leaving school. It is a year, which encourages the boys to take responsibility for themselves and to explore facets of their character, and talents, which they are often unable to do in the pressurised Leaving Certificate programme. The development process is enabled by the variety of non-academic subjects pursued by the boys such as driving lessons, cookery, golf lessons and drama. We are privileged to have as drama teacher, Ms Antoinette Walsh, a native of Nenagh and Trinity College drama graduate. The teaching staff and the other students can testify to the excellence of the boys cooking. In October, we do a three day adventure course in Delphi Adventure Centre, Co. Mayo. This greatly helps the bonding process as we have students from each of the three Junior Certificate classes as well as five or six new boys to the school. In May, we spend three days in the Corcha Dhuibhne Gealtacht. These two outings are usually the high points of the year for the boys.



Transition Year Students enjoy themselves on an outdoor activity.

Our I.T. Co-ordinator, Mrs Catherine Smith, did trojan work this year in guiding the boys through European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). This is an intensive course which allows the boys to acquire an internationally recognised computer qualification. The boys therefore, become computer literate very quickly and they use the computer for doing all their projects. Most subjects are examined in project form.

A very important part of our programme is the Variable Input slot each Friday afternoon. For this we invite a distinguished speaker who addresses the class on a chosen topic. Many of the speakers come from our vast past pupil network. Visitors this year included Conor Brady, Joe Harford, Michael O'Leary (Veterinary Surgeon), Michael Mc Nulty, Ben Cronin and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. We organise history trips, business trips and film outings. Our boys broke new ground this year when they indulged in the delights of mixed rugby on a social visit to St. Mary's, Nenagh. It is compulsory for every boy to purchase and read the Irish Times every day.

The boys also do two weeks work experience each year, which they organise in conjunction with employers in their own area.

From reading the above you will have gathered that Transition Year is different from the traditional CCR curriculum. It is safe to say that TY is here to stay. This year we had thirty-seven students divided into two classes. Parents and teachers alike can testify to the fact that the boys emerge from the programme far more mature and responsible. Third level lecturers claim that they can always identify those who have done TY, while a national survey has shown that former TY students score up to forty seven points more in the Leaving certificate than those who do a conventional five year course. If any past student would like to speak to our TY class in the future, please contact me at the college and your name will be put on a panel.

by Pat Sheedy, TY Co-Ordinator

Dead Poets Society Flourishes at CCR.



L - R : Derek Fanning (Poet/Journalist & Patron) with members David Hocter, Michael John Kelly, Simon Fraser, Daryll McNamara, Alan D'Arcy, Vincent Kelly & Shay Gibbons (Co-Ordinator) at the tree planting ceremony.

A Dead Poets Society was founded at the College last November and its aim was to incorporate "Poetry, Literature, Heritage and philosophy". The Society is open to second years at the College. The Society's Co-ordinator is JJ (Shay) Gibbons, House Master. In its mission statement the Society stated that it is hoped that: "Invited speakers would come to address the Society on Poetry Literature, Heritage and Philosophy. The Society would help its members gain a wider knowledge of poetry and literature. The Society would help foster a pride in Irish heritage among its members. There would be discussions of aesthetic experience by means of art. There would be visits to places of interest". Derek Fanning (Poet/Journalist) planted an Oak tree on the grounds of the College to mark the foundation of the Society. The tree was named Aengus after Yeats' "Song of the Wandering Aengus". Its roots represent the Dead Poets in their graves and its shoots represent those poets' writings rising into new life in the College and also the boys' writings.

School 2001/2002. Enrolment

Parents wishing to make an Application for a place in First Year for September 2001 should note that a live-in Assessment Weekend will be held in the College on Friday, November 24th.

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Paris 2000.

Thirty-three students along with their teachers travelled to Paris. A detailed article, by student Andrew Deering, can be read on the College website at www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph about their experiences and what they encountered on their trip.

Pictured here is recently retired teacher Seán Burke with some happy students in Paris.



What Sort of Church?

Fr Nivard Kinsella OCSO

In our last issue I was asking what sort of God we believe in. This month let us think about what sort of Church we might have in the future. There is a huge tendency to hold on to what we have. Very few people want or like change. Even if we do want it, it brings uncertainty and insecurity. You never know what change may lead to. At the moment it may seem alright, but give it a little time and it will certainly lead to other changes and what you finish up with, some distance down the road, may not be what you thought you were letting yourself in for.

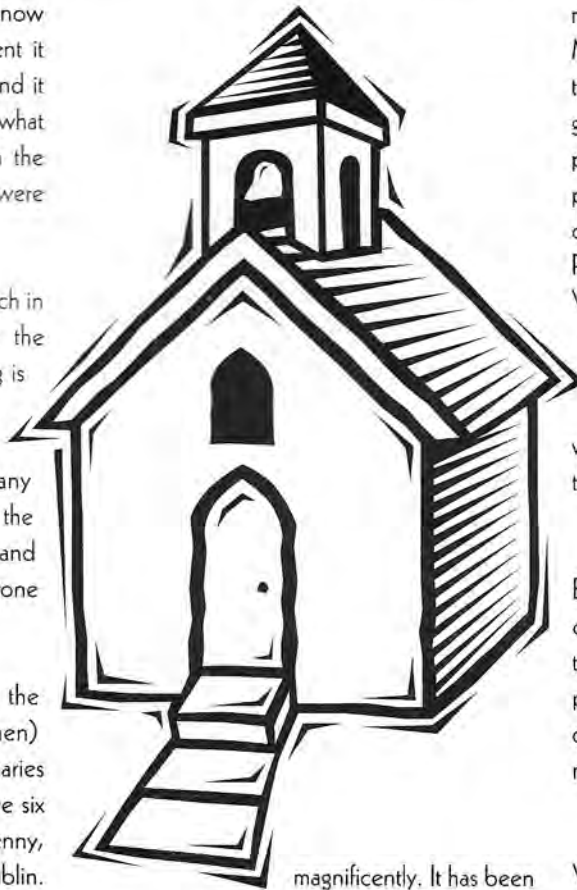
We are unduly pessimistic about the Church in Ireland at present and indeed about the present state of things in general. Nothing is easier than to lament the revelations about clerical scandals and corruption in Government. I do not hear many people saying that it is a great thing that the whole business has now come to light and that this will certainly make it harder for anyone to misbehave in this way in future.

We have convents closing all over the country, religious (men and women) withdrawing from schools, and seminaries either closed or half empty. We used to have six Regional Seminaries, in Carlow, Kilkenny, Thurles, Wexford, Waterford, and Dublin. Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford are closed. Dublin has currently nine students, and they are studying in Maynooth or Milltown Park. The number of clerical students in Maynooth has halved over the past few years and it is clear that this trend will continue.

A recent study by the Council of Priests in Dublin has shown that by the year 2010 every parish in Dublin will be a One-Priest parish. That is only nine years down the road. The number of clerical students in either Carlow or Thurles is a handful and most of the students there are lay people doing a B.A. in Theology. Our tendency is to lament the absence of

clerical students. But the good side to this is that so many lay people, women as well as men, are studying theology and preparing to go out and teach it.

Where will they teach it? In the secondary schools of the country where Religion will be an exam subject and will be valued at so many points and may well be a subject of choice for some of the students. Up to now the teachers of religion have had an uphill struggle and they have done



magnificently. It has been a struggle, because the youngsters are not interested in anything that will not bring them points for the Leaving Cert. Now Religion will have its quota of points like every other subject and we will see what will happen. At least the students will know what they are talking about and what they are abandoning if they do abandon it!

There are all sorts of options for the Church that we have not yet tried. One is married deacons. They are working in parishes all over Europe, in the United States and in Canada for twenty five and thirty years now. A Deacon

can do everything the priest can do other than offer Mass and hear Confessions. Why don't we have them here in Ireland? I think because the shortage of priests has not hit us yet. It will do so fairly soon now, and more in some parts of the country than in others. When it does we will have to turn to other, so far untried, options.

There will be more lay involvement in the parishes. This does not mean a token Parish Council. It means really involving the laity in making decisions - everything from the times of Masses to the preparation for the Sacraments to the preparation of the Liturgy. Priests do a great deal of work that could be done by lay people. A friend of mine who is a diocesan priest has said that he spends more time dealing with the gutters and the toilets in the Primary School than he does at preaching the Word! While this is meant as a half-joke it is also half in earnest. Of course all this will mean problems - you will have lay people who are less than competent, those who want to do everything their way, those who think they know it all and so on.

But that is life - it is not peculiar to the Church or to any parish. It is universal, and we must take it in our stride. Life is about solving problems, overcoming difficulties and making compromises. The life of the Church will, must be, the same.

What is the principal function of the Church? To preach the Word and to bring the Sacraments to people. However that is to be done in the modern urbanised world, it remains the mission of the Church. I am not sure that we priests quite realise that we are dealing with an educated audience today. Talking about "The simple Truths of Faith" is not enough any longer. Saying "These do not change" is not enough. It is true that these don't change but the way they are presented must change. Children are growing up with TV, computers and the



Internet as part of their world from the earliest ages, and they are different to what they were even a generation ago. Forgettable poorly prepared sermons and homilies, which simply repeat the Gospel without applying it to every day life, are of little use to anyone. Stressing the Ten Commandments while ignoring the fact that Jesus said that these were not enough, will not do. Poorly prepared or unprepared Liturgies at which the people remain passive spectators, the lessons are badly read, and the Prayer of the Faithful is in fact the Prayer of the Celebrant, are turning people, particularly young people, away from the Church.

But the Church must also teach people to pray. We have failed to do this in the past. Too much preaching has been moralistic and too little about God and his love and his care for us. Not enough has been said about his presence with us in the bad times as well as in the good. Prayer has meant devotions, and the recitation of prayers. Too few of us teach meditation, or talk about knowing God in prayer, or about prayer as listening to God.

We lament that people are going less often to Confession, but I wonder how much good the old-style frequent confession with the "laundry-list" of small sins did for anyone? People are going less frequently, and this is certainly not entirely due to loss of faith. It is due to a realisation that the encounter in the Confessional was often not a truly human encounter between two believing Christians, one of whom was mediating the grace of Salvation to the other. It was a formal encounter with a brief "For your Penance say such & such" which was scarcely a Penance at all anyhow, in which very little that truly touched the soul and heart of the Penitent took place. Sometimes for some people it worked, but often it did not. Now people are thinking more and deciding for themselves and this is healthier.

We are heading into a different kind of Church and a different response to the Gospel message. After 150 years of "No Change" we are now into a time of "All Change" and it is a good time to be a Catholic.

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Fr Nivard Kinsella OCSO

Union President

Our education has brought us in close contact with the Cistercian way of life. This quiet, dignified and deeply spiritual life lived by the Cistercian Community has enriched our lives. It is this influence that we carry with us daily. As President of the Past Students Union I extend an invitation to all to take time out with your family to revisit the school and monastery and to enjoy the memories, the atmosphere, the tranquillity and renew the Cistercian influence in your life. As President of the Union I wish to convey my thanks to the Central Committee and our General Secretary Fr Dermot O'Colmain for having bestowed on me this great honour and privilege. I look forward to the pleasure of meeting as many past students and supporting the present students during my term of office. I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to Dr Cuimin T. Doyle for the dedicated and meticulous work carried out by him during his term of office and I extend my good wishes and gratitude to his wife Linda and express our delight in her recovery from her recent illness. I can confirm that we have a past students union that is the envy of every college in the country. This of course is due to the dedicated work of a few and I would ask you not to take it for granted. Encouragement and support is required at all times no matter how small. It is our pride and belief in the school and the Cistercian influence that motivates our continuous involvement with the college and its progress, and that of the monastery. I would ask you to reflect as you read this Roscrea Review Newsletter which is the life essence and artery of the Past Students Union. It is circulated to every individual past student stretching from the college to the United States of America, to United Arab Emirates and from Africa to Australia and more.

Gentlemen we are in the new millennium, this line of communication to every one of our past men will continue twice yearly, however the time has come for us to ask you to consider the increased expense in the circulation of this invaluable

newsletter. To ensure its speedy journey to you and so as not to be a financial burden on the union I am

asking a minimum standing order of £20 per year contribution from every individual, and I have set up a special task force to consist of myself, Liam Spooner and Conor Massey our union joint treasurers, and Gearoid O'Brien the current editor of the newsletter to implement this task together with the chairmen of all our branches in the Union. It would simplify our job if you were to do this on reading this article and let us know that you have done so by forwarding details direct to the school, care of Katherine Donovan also check our web site for additional information. www.iol.ie/~mjoseph We hope you will make our job effective and attend to our request immediately. Sincere best wishes and greetings to one and all.

Aidan Mc Nulty BCL. Solicitor.

CCR 1960- 1965

Wife; - Theresa McGough both from Longford Town now living in Portmarnock Co Dublin.

Son Declan CCR 1987 - 1992

Daughters Sheila, Elizabeth and Caroline all keen CCR rugby supporters.



The Place we Love.

Dom. Laurence Walsh.



Last of the Heaton- Armstrongs: William - Henry.

William Henry - Armstrong was seventeen when his father, John, died 12th September 1791. The following June, he entered Trinity College, Dublin, but seems to have left College without obtaining a degree, possibly on coming of age to take care of Mount Heaton and the rest of his Father's properties.

The first legal acts of William Henry that we can see are for the sale of 90 acres of Mount Heaton to Nicholas Reynolds in 1797, and in 1798 the sale of his father's Dublin house in Leinster Street to Lord Vicount Kenmare for £1600 and a yearly rent of £90. The pattern of sales and mortgages continued: a mortgage of 225 acres of Millbrook in North Tipperary, and Mount Heaton itself in 1799 to secure a loan of £4200 in 1800, 24 acres of Clyduff to William and George Port, a family which later went to America in November 1802, 15 acres to William Lalor, a "Nailer of Mount Heaton", a family which is happily still in residence and a month later, 19 acres of Clyduff to James and Peter Ryan, "Farmers of Mt. Eton". All the acreages are in plantation measures, i.e. Irish acres.

Besides his landlord activities, William Henry had a short, but memorable, term in Parliament 1798-1800, representing Wicklow Borough. The other member for Wicklow was Henry Grattan. The major question of the time was the union with Britain. Pitt, the British Prime - Minister, we are told, sent over several sums of money to help purchase a majority - so there were brown envelopes around before the 1990s! William Henry was a staunch anti-unionist, "refusing all terms from the government". Sir Laurence Parson, Earl of Rosse, "made a remarkably fine speech" against the Union, and Henry Grattan's two hour speech against the Union is regarded as among the most memorable monuments of Irish eloquence. The Orange Lodges in the North were among the strongest of the opposition, while the Catholic bishops were in favour. Years later, John Barrington is merciless on the Catholic leadership: "Nothing could be more

culpable that the conduct of a considerable portion of the Catholic clergy; the Catholic body were misled or neutralised throughout the entire of that unfortunate era. In 1798, they were hanged; in 1799, they were caressed; in 1800, they were cajoled; in 1801, they were discarded."

The Union was carried and on 1 August received the royal sanction, the King declaring it to be the happiest event of his reign. As a matter of interest at a recent seminar on 200th anniversary of the Act of Union Garret Fitzgerald expressed the view that had the Anglican Irish Parliament survived into the 19th century, it would have been "no picnic" and would have led to violence "on a large scale". So the Catholic leadership may not have been far out in its assessment of the times.

William Henry was 35 when on 7 April 1809 he married the 19 year old Biddy MacDonnell of New Hall, Co. Clare. Their marriage was a very fruitful one - eleven children in all. The first five Letitia Mary (1810), Letitia Charlotte (1811) Gertrude Catherine (1813), Bridget (1814) and John (1815) were all born at Mount Heaton. The mansion must have been a lively place through these years. At this period William Henry built a bridge over the Little Brosna which still bears his initials "W.H.A. 1811".

There was by 1816 considerable local agitation as a result of Rev. John Hamilton, the Protestant Curate of Roscrea, whose excessive and obsessive fear of Catholics had the town in a ferment. He had alienated even his rector Rev. Thomas L'Estrange and other co-religionists such as Francis Prittie M.P. of Corville and William Vaughan of Golden Grove. Eventually riots broke out in the town after a yeoman with his bayonet mortally stabbed a local, John Anthony Maher in a scuffle on 31st March. We are told that "the Magistrates of the town met, and Mr. Armstrong of Mount Heaton, supporting the opinion of Mr. Hamilton that the rioters should be apprehended, was himself the first to seize one of them."

He was then a political hard-liner and a man of personal courage, even if in a doubtful

cause. The family tradition is that he was also a very heavy drinker, but that at his marriage Biddy succeeded in refining him. However he then took up gambling as a compensation, becoming such an inveterate and unlucky gambler that eventually he had to part with Mount Heaton and many other Irish properties as well.

There are various stories about how the parting of the last of the Heaton-Armstrongs with Mount Heaton came about. A descendant, Major Duncan Heaton-Armstrong writing from Switzerland in 1938 said that "My great grandfather, William Henry Armstrong sold over 100,000 acres to pay for his gambling debts." One might however wonder if the acreage is exaggerated. In another letter he told Fr. Camillus Claffey, then Prior: "the traditions in our family are the same as yours, that my great grandfather lost the house and park, gambling at Court. Fr. Camillus had passed on to the Major for comment the local tradition that William Henry Armstrong "had staked the whole property and lost it to the Duke of York in 1816. The same night a General Taylor won it from the Duke." There was also an addition to the local story, that the estate was won with the two of diamonds!

The family left Mount Heaton in 1816 and lived in France and Italy after William Henry had mortgaged it to Hutchinsons, who appear to have lived in the mansion for two years - but more of this family another day. Over the two years following William Henry had a lot of legal transactions to perform, especially the making good of the title to Mount Heaton. Thus he was in a position to sell, which he did on 17 October 1818 for £32,179 to "James Taylor Esquire, Lieutenant General in his Majesty's Army", so bringing to a close the Heaton Armstrong connection with ancient Ballyskenagh.

W.H.A. Armstrong

Dublin Branch goes to the Dogs.

On May 4th. the Dublin Branch went to the dogs. In this instance, to Shelbourne Park for their fund-raiser, this year in aid of a Special School in Blackrock. It was a novel idea, which from the outset had the potential to raise substantial cash and be a great night out. In the event, it did both. The Dublin Branch arranged sponsorship for each of the ten races on the night and the race card labeled the night the "Roscrea Union Evening". The tickets, of which the Branch sold 300, were known as the "Sizzler" option i.e. a race-card (essential), a free pint (welcome) sausages and chips (sustaining) and a free bet on the tote (sinful). With a good crowd and a race every fifteen minutes the atmosphere was electric. Gambling styles varied. Barney Sherry, at the head of a merry Sherry contingent, soon realised that the road to success lay in following the advice of his wife, Trilby, who hit form right from the off! Anya and Conor Massey collared Bord na gCon official Pat O'Donovan and got an interesting inside track- their table's jackpot hopes faded only at the second-last! Noel Windle relied on his own keen judgement- had there been a "best-dressed" competition, he must surely have won, arriving in his finest Cheltenham togs and looking every inch the seasoned race-goer! Maurice Phelan's cohorts of lawyers were typical of their profession- cautious in the betting and boisterous in the entertainment! The real winners were Des Cox, who won the free raffle prize- a car trip on the HSS to Hollyhead (His friends were heard to remark "Anfield here we come") while the meal for two was scooped by legal cronies of Donal Taaffe! There were many that were first-timers at the dogs and enjoyed it immensely. The recipient school was represented and was delighted with efforts and indeed the donation of £5,000 at the end of the evening. All in all a good night out!



Donal O'Leary & Maurice O'Leary



CCR pastmen are Printers of the "Roscrea" "Review"

D & A O'Leary Ltd

D & A O'Leary Ltd was Founded in 1925 by Jeremiah & Anna O'Leary. Jerry, as he was known, worked in The Eagle Printing Co., a large printing, paper and stationery company employing between two and three hundred people. He decided he wanted to work for himself and with very small capital rented small premises in Coach Street, Cork. He purchased a second hand platen press and some cases of type. He also put paper bags, twine and stationery in stock. Anna was the salesperson and Jerry set type and worked the platen. They quickly established a good clientele and made a good living from their efforts.

In 1935, Jerry died at the early age of 40 years and left Anna with five children. Anna's friends advised her to put the children in an orphanage and get herself a job of some sort. She, however, decided to try and keep the business going. She got great help from Mr. Tom Woods, the founder and Managing Director of Eagle Printing Company who always had a great liking for his employee Jerry O'Leary.

Anna went on to build the business up and eventually bought a premises in Washington Street, Dunlea and Co. Millers. The staff at this stage had grown to about 10 people; two Compositors; one Machine Man; two Reps - one city and one country; an Office Girl and Shop Assistant; a Store Man and two Delivery Men. The company prospered and in 1945, son Donal, who was in his fourth year at CCR, took early retirement from school and joined the staff of D&A O'Leary as Floor Sweeper, Delivery Boy and general dogs body.

About 1950, the Country Rep left the company and Donal took over his job and continued as Country Rep for eight years. In 1959, the manager of the company resigned and Donal took on a new County Rep and took over the running of the company.

This he did until 1994 and then Maurice, his son who had also taken early retirement from CCR took over and has shown a remarkable business talent. At present he has just concluded the sale of Washington Street and has moved the company to a new premises on Tramore Road and has installed a large four colour Printing Press.





Obituaries.

Denis Sampson (CCR 1919-21), a native of Scariff, Co. Clare died recently at his home in Templemore where he has been a bank manager for many years.

Denis Crowley (CCR 1918-22), Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Chemistry at UCD, died on 24th June, peacefully, in his 96th year. Of quiet and gracious disposition, formidable intellect and heart, Denis dedicated the integrity of his being to every aspect of his life. Woven into the fabric of his life-long energy was an enduring love of Mount St. Joseph, the monks and the College and an abiding interest in the Union, of which in 1929 he was a founding committee member, the last to survive. Roscrea mourns the passing of Denis. May he rest in Peace.

Paddy Magee CCR (1939-43), Dunboyne, a member of the Greystones-Dunboyne Magee clan, who practiced as a veterinary surgeon in Kilcock died on April 10th 2000.

Jerry O'Dwyer (CCR 1942-46), Cahir,

died on April 16th 2000. Jerry lived in Donnybrook, Dublin. The PP in homily at Jerry's Requiem referred to him as a "flying winger with Bective Rangers Rugby Club who always showed his heels to the opposition...Jerry was a 7.30 a.m. Donnybrook mass". He also earned an Irish final trial.

Tommy O'Reilly (CCR 1933-1937), Publican, Sandymount, Dublin, died in December 1999.

Liam Kilcawley (CCR 1954-1961), native of Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, the youngest of five brothers past students of the College, died on Friday 3rd December, 1999.

Edmond (Eddie) Stokes (CCR 1945-1947), Cullen Road, Oola, Co. Limerick, died on May 31st 2000. Eddie's brother John also attended the College.

Richard Nash (CCR 1931-35), Templemore died recently in Winnipeg.

Desmond Cox Cox's Pharmacy, Carrick-on-Shannon, died May 2000. Desmond's had three sons who attended the College. Desmond (1989-'94), Fergal (1987-1992), Fintan (1990-1995).

Martin Maher (CCR 1954-58), formerly of Templemore, died April 2000.

Michael Towey (CCR 1959) formerly of Roscommon died recently.

Michael Corcoran (CCR 1914), Dún Laoighre, Co. Dublin, originally from Tipperary died recently aged 99 years.

Joe Murphy (CCR 1953) "Derrymore", Iona Drive, N.C.Rd., Limerick, formerly of St. Johns Hill, Birr, Co. Offaly died on February 24th 2000.

Liam Bruen (CCR 1943) Dundalk and formerly of Roscommon died recently. Liam's son Michael is also a pastman (1966-71).

News of Pastmen

Congratulations to Niall Slattery (1981-86) on his engagement to Rachel Geraghty (Waterford) recently. Niall's brothers Shane & Gearóid and their father Gerry are all pastmen.

Éamon Stack (1978) took Final Vows in the Society of Jesus on Sunday 27th February 2000 at St. John the Baptist Church, Portadown. He is now working at Young Adult Faith-Action Ministry which is based in 36 Lower Street, Dublin 2.

Geoffrey Keating (1983-1988) opens up a new consulate in Shanghai.

Eamon Maher (1972-1978) is currently a Lecturer in French in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, has published a book treating of the Irish links between French and Irish literature.

Congratulations to Peter Collier (CCR 1967-72) on his Blooms Day Marriage to Laure

Prêchonet. Peter's Best Man was his classmate Shay Garvey, who gave honourable mention in his speech to Peter's years in CCR and made special reference to 3 formative figures in his life - his English teacher Liam S. Maher and

2 former legendary Monks - Fr. Emmanuel Curtis and Fr. Patrick Maloney. Among the attendants were 3 further classmates of Peter's Tom Kelly, Johnny Dolan and Gerry Maher. Another CCR connection was the presence of Peter's cousin Tony Collier (CCR 1965-70).

Congratulations to Jim Glennon (CCR 1967-70) on his recent election to the Seanad as a nominee of The Fianna Fáil Party.

Pádraic O'Maille, Carraroe (CCR 85-90) recently received his Doctor of Medicine Degree at UCG

Donnie Mc Grath, Listowel (CCR 92-94) graduated from NUG and is stationed with the Army in Limerick, although he has not lost contact with NUG.

Michael Haverty, Birr (CCR 88-93) was recently conferred with his Medical Degree Brian Mc Mahon, Ennis (CCR 90-95) is

presently starring with Clare Senior Football team. Stephen Lucey, Croom (CCR 92-97) was Centre Halfback on Limerick's U/21 Football team, which reached their first All Ireland final. He was also on the Limerick U/21 and Senior Hurling teams.

John Phelan (CCR 94-99), Kieran Kelliher (CCR 91-97) and Pat Mc Hugh (CCR 93-97) are all studying at Aberdeen University Bill O'Donnell, Limerick (CCR 79-84) has opened his own legal practice in Limerick City. Congratulations to John Bates (CCR 82-87) and his brother Conor (CCR 84-89) from Clonaslee who got engaged recently. They are both planning to get married next year. Conor is in the Army and John is an anaesthetist in St. Vincent's Hospital.

Aidan Walsh (CCR '78 -'83) is a Chartered Civil Engineer with Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. Middlesex.

Diarmuid Mc Coy (CCR '79 - '83) is Assistant Professor of Pain Medicine at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, South Australia.

News of Pastmen



Hugh Carthy (CCR '70 - '75) a native of Ballinalee, Co. Longford is currently working and living in Awali, Bahrain.

Joseph Shannon (CCR '91 - '96) has just completed his final year of Law in UCC. His brother James also attended CCR from '89 to '94.

Ronan Hall (Class 1992) recently qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant and International Accountant. He is presently working, as Audit manager in the family Firm, Hall Lifford Hall, Dublin and Waterford.

Tony Maher (1991) from Clonaslee, Co Laois, qualified in dentistry at University College, Cork in 1997. He then transferred to medicine and has just completed his fourth medical year in UCC.

James Shannon (1994) from Clonmel qualified in medicine from UCC in June 2000.

Simon Kelleher (1988) from Castleisland, Co Kerry married Mary Hickey from Knocknagree, Co Cork last December. Simon is a teacher in Christian Brothers College, Cork. Mary is also a teacher.

Seamus Lanigan -Ryan (1978) from Ballycahill, Thurles is in farming and is also a helicopter pilot. Tom Mulherin (1963) from Dublin was Collector General before he was appointed assistant secretary in the Department of Social Welfare. Tom is a brother of Diarmuid Mulherin (1980) who is a consultant radiologist in Birmingham and Seamus Mulherin (1969) consulting engineer and Chairman of the Southwest Branch.

Andrew Cody (1982) practices as a solicitor in Newbridge, Co Kildare. He is married to Eva O'Brien, (they have two children) also a solicitor and sister to pastmen Gearóid (1980-85) currently Editor of the "Roscrea Review" and Lorcan (1979-84). Gearóid & his wife Catriona have a new baby son also Gearóid born 20/8/00.

Congratulations to Lorcan on his recent recommendation by the Local Appointments Commission for the position of Senior Environmental Health Officer with the Health

Board. He will soon take up the position in the Midwestern region to be based in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Lorcan is also a qualified chartered accountant.

E-mail: lorcan.obrien@erha.ie

Michael Creagh (1976) from Rathdowney, Co Laois is a dairy farmer. He also writes and produces the local pantomime.

Neil Nolan (1990) from Rathangan, Co Kildare is an army officer.

Congratulations to Raymond O'Boyle (1980-85) and his wife Glynis on the birth of their baby daughter last May.

Kevin and Mary Daly open their new Public House & Restaurant on July 3rd. It's on the Athlone/ Roscommon road, so drop in when passing. Tel: (0902) 89082.

Colin Payne (Class 1992) is now living in Castleknock, Dublin. He is an architect.

Congratulations to Peter O'Boyle on his engagement to Deirdre Casey.

Congratulations to Declan Brady on his engagement to Dymphna Hogan (New York). Congratulations to David O'Kelly on his marriage to Bhavani in December 1999. They now live in San Francisco.

Charlie Murray is a Garda and now living in Dublin.

Dr. Martin Mulligan (1967-72) has been awarded a major distinction by Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, where he is currently teaching. He was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching. William Meehan (1956-60) has been appointed PP of Holy Family Church, Waterford Parish.

Congratulations to Michael

MacNamara (Former Dublin Branch Chairman & currently Central Committee Member of our Union) on the achievements of his two sons in the Sailing world. Ivor is currently a member of the Junior Irish National Sailing team and Troy (currently in CCR) is Connaught Silver Fleet Sailing Champion which was held recently in Lough Ree Yacht Club.



City Hall visit to celebrate the appointment of the Lord Mayor of Cork - Cllr P.J. Hourican (CCR 1958 -'63) on 17 August 2000.

Seated : Lord Mayor P.J. Hourican L-R : Aidan McNulty (President of Past Pupils Union), Gerald McCarthy (Chairman of the Board of Governors), Michael O'Niell (1963) Michael Coughlin (member of the teaching staff), Gerard Murphy (House Captain 1968) Chairman of the South West regional Authority

Joseph Byrne (1972) from Waterford is an export liaison officer.

Paul Kenny (1991) from Midleton, Co Cork is a manager with Anderson Consulting in London. His brother John Kenny (1996) has just completed a B.Sc. degree in microbiology in UCC.

Paul McGarry (1988) has worked with the European Commission in Brussels and is now practicing as a barrister in Dublin.

Shane Garvey (1990) from Glenamaddy is a surveyor with "DTZ Sherry Fitzgerald".

Seán O'Boyle (1993) is a teacher in "St Conleths", Ballinasloe.

Hugh Curley (1989-1994) spent the last six years studying in Scotland (Aberdeen). He has obtained a B.Sc. and a PgDip in Science related disciplines and will graduate in December 2000 with a PgD in Management Studies.

Eoin O'Boyle has recently started a new business venture at O'Boyle & Co., Chartered Accountants, Church Street, Longford.

James Kelly (1980-1985) and Ken Ryan have started a new business venture in computers based in London.

Congratulations to Stephen Brady and his wife Jayne based in San Francisco, on the birth of their son Liam last July.



Justin Kehoe is presented with U-21 trophy at the East of Ireland Championships by P.J. Cunningham, Irish Independent



Mr. Declan Murphy who received his A.F.R.C.S.L.