



Editorial



CATENA No. 902 December 2004

Matters of Great Interest

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Inserted in this edition of Catena is a report to the membership by Brother Grand Secretary Robin Oakley Smith. Among the many items of interest is news of the election of Grand Vice President Jim Kelly of Chesterfield Circle as Grand President and Mike O'Malley, Director of Province 1, of Manchester 1 and Oldham Circles as Grand Vice President for the year 2005/2006. Congratulations to both these excellent men and brothers. The whole Association must surely wish them, together with Barbara and Anne-Marie, well and pray that they have excellent years, like so many of their predecessors.

Also in the report is that the Catena Trustees and the Catenian Association have signed the Contract and Trust agreement for the sale of one third of 8 Chesham Place.

The Association is also looking to appoint a new Webmaster now that the sterling work carried out by Warren Edwardes of London Charterhouse Circle has come to an end because of pressure of business. Warren did a great deal of splendid work in modernising the Association via its website. It is to be hoped that some equally able and committed Catenian might take over the role.

The Annual Conference in Torquay is coming ever nearer. There is a further article in this edition and the booking forms, etc will appear in the January one. It was interesting to see a programme about Torquay featured in glowing terms on BBC recently - tribute of course to the assiduity and professionalism of the organising committee! Grand Secretary goes on to mention that the 2006 Conference will be in Eastbourne, 2007 in Cardiff, and, appropriately enough, Manchester in 2008.

Also in the report is the announcement that the Bouvard Group in Western Australia is to be inaugurated into Circle 338 in February 2005.

The report also alludes to Southern Africa and in this edition there is a full account of the visit there by a group led by Grand Vice President Jim Kelly. The party was smaller than in previous years but had a profound effect to judge by the article written by Frank Hinds, Director of Province 17 together with two pieces by Kingsley Went of Harare North Circle and George Matthews of Johannesburg Circle. What comes out of these accounts is the horrendous restrictions and difficulties in Zimbabwe which are none the less being met with great faith, fortitude and determination by the brothers there. Incidentally, John Graham the Secretary of Harare Circle, has been in the UK recently, seeing family, and he has been a source of enormous interest and indeed admiration in his reports to circles here of just what life is like in his own country. The situation in South Africa's only circle, Johannesburg, is showing signs of re-vitalisation and, remarkably, they are looking into the possibility of expansion in other parts of the Republic. The brothers of Johannesburg Circle show their own form of heroism in their attachment to the Association; many of them have to travel considerable distances to meet with each other in a city which is becoming more and more lawless and at the mercy of criminals. How easy it is for those brothers in normal and secure parts of the Association compared to their African brothers. Everyone knows brothers who are put off attending their circles by a drop of rain or a touch of frost, or even a television programme!

Again, Grand Secretary's reports that a paper was presented to Grand Council by Jim Quinn, Director of Province 6, with regard to the setting up of a Third Charity. This was agreed by Grand Council and details of what is involved and the proposals to be voted upon will go before the membership early in the new Catenian year.

It was also agreed that a small sub-committee would review the constitution of the Public Affairs Committee so that its renewal could be discussed.

There is in this edition a statement on the Mental Capacity Bill by the standing committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Please read this with great care.

The Design Department of Catena writes:

Some brothers, although fewer than before, are continuing to send photographs to Catena in a Word format rather than as JPG, or similar, files. Also, when photos are sent via email, would brothers please ensure that they are scanned at 300dpi and saved at maximum quality. Catena is receiving some very poor pictures which are simply not printable. What a pity to go to the trouble of taking them and then sending them only for them to be almost unusable.

