

PREFACE

By The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols PpL, MA, MEd, STL, Archbishop of Westminster

I am glad to write this Preface for the Centenary Edition of *Catena*.

The Catenians have a very special place in the Catholic community in this country. Not only does the Catenian Association offer people the opportunity to enjoy each other's company, but also it is a source of encouragement for members especially when difficulties and problems arise.

The Catenians, in many places, are also a source of assistance to the clergy. In addition the Catenians raise substantial amounts of money to help others. For this I am very grateful.

'I would like to thank the Catenians for their fostering of Vocations and I ask you to sustain these prayers, to sustain this effort, to speak boldly of the call of God to a man to be a priest....Whether as a priest or as a father of children...the mystery of fatherhood is a reflection and participation in the mystery of God itself.

It is here at Mass that we learn who we are - men who wish to follow Christ, men who know their strength comes from Him, men who compete in striving to reach the crown of eternal glory in union with Him'.

As you celebrate this Centenary it is good to look back to your founding fathers and in particular to Bishop Louis Charles Casartelli, the 4th Bishop of Salford, who was convinced of the need for a confident Catholic laity to play an increasing role in the presence of the Church in society at that time. A hundred years on from these modest but important beginnings the need for such confident Catholic laity is clearer than ever.

I happily congratulate the Catenian Association at this time of its Centenary celebrations. May God protect you and your families and give strength and power to the work and objects of your Association.

With my blessings and best wishes.

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In particular I have appreciated the lead and the initiatives which the Catenians have taken in promoting Vocations.

Not long ago, as Archbishop of Birmingham, I celebrated the Centenary Mass for the Midland Provinces of the Catenians in Lichfield Cathedral. I would now like to repeat some of the words I said on that day,

+ Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster