

FOREWORD

By Joe McNally KCHS MBA, Grand President of the Catenian Association 2009-2010

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce this Special Centenary Edition of *Catena* which records many of the important events by which we celebrated our Centenary year.

“There is good reason to be proud of what we are and what we have achieved”



Our celebrations began at our Manchester Conference and continued throughout the year. Our Centenary focused our minds and efforts on the very positive aspects of our Association. We celebrated with joy and with great energy at every opportunity usually ensuring that others benefited from our celebration activities. Across the Catenian world special events were marvellous - our flagship events superb. Exceptionally, in our Centenary year, we permitted an International charitable appeal which to date has produced well in excess of £210,000 for the Water Aid project we undertook

jointly with Cafod, Caritas, and Sciaf. An impressive sum by any standards, it represents but a part of the charitable giving of the Association's members last year. Substantial additional monies have been given by Circle Presidents to a range of charitable causes which enjoy their personal patronage.

The availability of a Centenary Fund allowed the Association to produce a number of flagship events. Our Centenary Masses, offered across the Catenian globe in thanksgiving and celebration, undoubtedly take pride of place at the forefront of our Centenary festivities. Splendidly organised and well attended, the support for these Masses was clear evidence of the “proudly Catholic” ethos of our Association and the importance our members place upon this aspect of membership.

Our Banquets at Edinburgh, Guildhall and at York were momentous occasions which added to the Association's prestige.

As we reflected on the Association's one hundred year journey we reminded ourselves of the contribution our members have made, and are making, to public life wherever we are established. Our self belief was restored and we began to realise that there is good reason to be

proud of what we are and of what we have achieved.

Many aspects of our centenary events are captured in these pages. However, pictures capture only the moment and the narratives describe only some aspects of events. These are necessarily incomplete for they cannot tell the whole story; they cannot represent or describe the nature of the enduring friendships between members nor can they illuminate the personal histories of those portrayed in terms of service, fidelity and fraternal devotion that underpins all that the Catenian Association represents. This special edition of *Catena* will have virtues beyond the images in its pages. To the Catenian historian it will be a rich source; to those portrayed within these pages it will provide a window through which they can recall the splendour of these events and, perhaps, recapture the sense of happiness and pride experienced in days long gone. For all of us this edition will provide a reservoir from which we can, in quieter times, evoke memories of good times, good friends and of happy days. I commend this edition of *Catena* as indeed I commend those who have worked so hard to produce it.

Joe McNally
Grand President of the Catenian Association 2009-2010