



He caused to be introduced into the aims of the Association "the advancement of young Catholics by assisting them in their choice or pursuit of a career". He was Grand President of the Association 1924/26 and drew up the constitution of the Association that, with some minor alterations, stands today.

But it is for bringing the Catenian Association to his native city that we remember him today. On the evening of March 5th 1914 Bro Joe Shepherd, First Grand Secretary of the Association, with Bro Henry Sandy, President of Birmingham 9 Circle and 22 Catholic Gentlemen gathered in a private room at the Albert Hotel, which stood across the road from the Cathedral. Brosch was largely responsible for bringing about this inaugural meeting and was a frequent visitor in subsequent years. RIP"

I understand that someone from the Catenians has been in touch with John Brosch, his grandson, recently. I am sure I will get copies of the information sent to John but would be interested in any information you may have on RW to supplement what I already have and is available on the family site www.dissfamilytree.co.uk

His father escaped from Poland around 1845 after one of the many uprisings against the Russian occupiers. He set up in business in Nottingham and hence the connection. Emily Brosch mentioned above was a lovely person and as a result of the family research carried out by my father was welcomed back, after losing touch, to the wider family, till her death in 2003.

I would appreciate any information you have to colour the history I have already on RW.

Andy Diss
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Vocations and the Next Century

Sir, The purpose of this letter is to provide readers with an acute awareness of the opportunity at the Annual Conference to enshrine within the Aims of the Catenian Association the overarching need to promulgate Vocations. The actual wording of our motion is with Grand Secretary. When our Association was founded 100 years ago, Bishop Casartelli was instrumental in creating a fraternity of professional Catholic men and a network of Catholic schools. How the tide has changed in 100 years: whilst our brotherhood is strong and growing, the numbers of clergy are fewer and declining, with the result that

neighbouring parishes have to be amalgamated. Our own Bishop, the Rt Rev Peter Doyle, appeals to us from the pulpit "...to do all you can to provide me with priests". As Catenians we have a desperately urgent part to play.

The benefits of our proposal are:

- To show that our Association sees a real need to support Vocations to the priesthood
- To create a fund (the Vocation Fund) for voluntary contributions to be used to promote vocations
- To establish a way to manage the Vocation Fund.

The Bishops and their Clergy helped us at the start of our first century, so we should now help them at the start of our second. Please support our motion in Manchester.

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A Longer Claim?

Sir, Congratulations to Brother Stephen Wright and his family on 95 years continuous membership of the Association. However, our grandfather, John Lomas, was the founder secretary of Liverpool No 4, inaugurated in 1910, and was therefore a Chum. In due course he became President of Liverpool, Central Wigan and Macclesfield Circles. He introduced Catenianism to Macclesfield.

His son, our father Frank Lomas, was enrolled in Stockport Circle, and became the founder President of Macclesfield Circle and also Province 17. He was Grand President in 1963-4. We joined Macclesfield Circle in 1964. Our family can therefore claim 98 years of continuous membership of the Association. Is there a family with a longer claim?

Tom Lomas, Macclesfield Circle
Peter Lomas, City of Leeds Circle

£18 Conference Fee

Sir, I would be obliged if you could publish in Catena the following letter and I would ask all Brothers to make their comments in regard to the Conference Fee of £18 being levied on all wives, widows, and visiting family of overseas brothers to the Conference: I was already quite perturbed about charging the wives of all brothers the £18 Levy for the Conference, but I received an email from an Australian brother

stating that he would like to invite some of his family in the UK to the Old Trafford Function at the Manchester Conference, but when he was told they would have to pay the £18 Conference Levy Fee which would have made a total for four guests of £300, he said that he would have to rethink the matter. This means that a levy of £72 would have been charged for people who would not be attending the Conference.

At this point I would like to point out that the main ethos of the Association is supporting family life through friendship and faith. I would ask that someone on Grand Council show some common sense in regard to this matter. If, as expected, there will be approximately over 2000 people attending the Manchester Conference, this adds up to a Conference Levy Fee of around £36,000. I would like to know how this money is to be spent.

We are now penalising widows attending Mass and having lunch with old friends, as they are expected to pay this £18 Levy - which increases the lunch from £25 to £43, and I think, as an Association, we should be paying for widows not levying them.

It has been mentioned to me at various meetings that a lot of brothers think that Province One has imposed this Levy when, in actual fact, it is Grand Council. I would suggest, unless a valid reason is given, that the Levy for family of visiting brothers from overseas who would like to attend any functions, and especially the widows who would like to attend any functions, should be waived.

I have written a letter to Grand Secretary in a similar vein as I personally think the situation as it stands is unacceptable.

I would appreciate any comments, either for or against, about the present situation as portrayed, either by e mail:

dor.jon@btinternet.com, by phone: 01024 845094 or by snail mail to 112 Lonsdale Road, Bolton, Lancs BL1 4PN.

John L Riley
Immediate Past-Provincial President
Province 1, Wigan Circle

Grand Secretary replies:

Sir, October's Catena contained a full explanation of the reason why a Conference fee was necessary for the Manchester Conference as well as giving a full explanation of the financial considerations relating to such a charge (page 10 and Agenda). The matter is to be the subject of debate at the Conference as notice of a motion has been given and circulated to all Circle Secretaries. Rather than repeat all that has been published I have replied fully and privately to Bro John.