

DEVELOPMENT

On this page we feature a piece by Tony Sadler, Director of Province 11, responsible for development in the United Kingdom with a rallying cry before the Centenary commenced.

Also featured is an historic article by Grand Secretary Jim Quinn from Agenda of August 2008 outlining the thinking behind the development of the Association in India. It makes remarkable reading in view of the launch of the first Indian circle in Panjim, Goa, in October 2009.

Life Is What We Make of It! – So Is Our Association!

Brothers, we are about to commence a year of celebration to mark our centenary.

We have two choices:

We can just sit back, let things happen and then in 2009 complain that nothing special happened to mark our centenary.

On the other hand, we can become proactive.

We can join in the celebrations.

We can devise special events in our own Circles and we can join in with the celebrations being organised by other Circles.

- Can we make our centenary year the year of fun for our families?
- Can we make 2008/09 a year when the visiting of other Circles becomes a high priority for more of our members?
- Can we do more for our existing Brothers by way of entertainment and offering care and support where it is needed?
- Can we pay even more attention in the care we give to the widows of our deceased Brothers?
- Can we do more by way of recruitment?
- Can we pledge to attend at least one of the Provincial and/or National Masses being arranged around the country?
- Will we make an effort to support the lecture series being organised at various venues?
- Will we support the public speaking competitions?
- Will we support Grand President's Water Aid Project?
- Will we show our caring for those far less fortunate than ourselves by promoting and contributing to this worthwhile cause?
- Will we do our best to celebrate our centenary and promote our Association among the clergy and in the press?
- Will we use our centenary year to strengthen our faith and strengthen family values?
- Have we arranged for Masses to be offered for Vocations on 29th June 2008?

Brothers, the future of our Association, and the success of our centenary year lies in your hands and the hands of our fellow Brothers.

Let us all unite to make our centenary year a year to remember.

Help our Association to grow and be known as a thriving, caring and worthwhile organisation.

THE INDIAN CHALLENGE

Activity has been building on the Indian subcontinent in Chennai and Goa. The Association is now faced at the very start of its second century with challenges not dissimilar to those faced at the start of the first.

Should we, and if so how can we, start the Catenian Association in India – in a country threatening to be the second most important world power and containing 15.5 million Catholics – and more Christians than Sikhs. But a country where exchange rates with the pound and Australian dollar and average earnings of its professional and business people make payment of a capitation fee of £27 per person per annum excessive. For some months, information has been flowing into Grand Council, particularly from existing brothers who know the areas well, that there is a hugely enthusiastic movement in at least two areas to found circles of the Association. Anecdotal reports state that these two areas could be the first of very many.

International Development Officer Tony Godden was asked to arrange a fact finding visit which he did with his wife Kelly in early July 2008. Tony's report confirms the enthusiasm and reality of the proposal and underlines the potential if the project is well founded and organised. He confirms the financial problem of relative earning power but confirms that the prospective new members have the same financial comfort in their own economy as has the average brother in Australia or England etc in his own economy. He touches also on the lines of communication and the relative isolation that these Circles would experience with no other circles within thousands of miles. He confirms the enthusiasm that fills the churches and the need for such a

Catholic association as the Catenians. His full report has this advice for Grand Council –

“We are faced by an open door in India. We have the power to develop the Association in India. We have the power to shut the door in which case we will lose the Indians and they will probably develop their own Association.”

Grand Council considered the problems of distance, relative wealth, administration and organisation. It concluded that every effort must be made to foster this initiative and potential so that Catholic laymen throughout the world should be able to share the benefits we enjoy.

Accordingly it set up a cross Group committee under the Chairmanship of Grand Vice-President to identify how to achieve this objective. It asked that a detailed report with advice on all necessary aspects of carrying the project to a conclusion should be presented for further decision of Grand Council at its meeting on 31st October 2008. It agreed that the aim would be to establish new Circles in Goa and Chennai as soon as possible.

Grand Council agreed with Bro Tony's assessment – the enthusiasm must be harnessed quickly so that it does not dissipate. We now await with hope the Report of the powerful committee that has been appointed. We trust that the many real anxieties raised by some can be addressed and the Association embark on a period of truly international expansion.