



# Conference Report

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**with thanks to John Daly, Francis Sheath, Director Province I I  
Tony Sadler and Grand Secretary Jim Quinn**

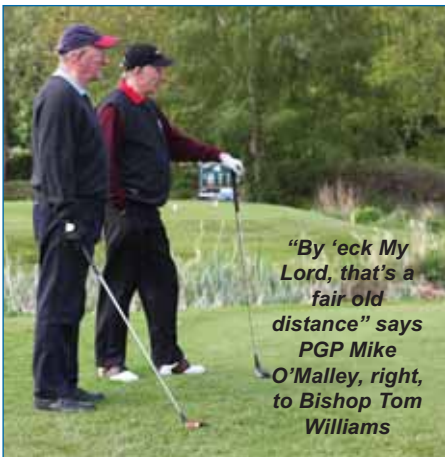
**T**he Association returned to Bournemouth during the city's bicentennial year, with the theme **Love, Hope and Faith.**

Grand Council held meetings on Thursday and Friday at which our Grand President, Vernon DeCruz, was installed in his high office and the application for a Charter giving the Osterley and District Group full Circle status was approved. There were four new faces as new Directors were being appointed. The picture on page 8 shows the new Grand Council on the red carpet, naturally, outside the Highcliff Hotel.

Brothers and their wives were warmly greeted by all the volunteers manning the registration areas in the hotels. There were two styles of Conference ties, either a navy with bright yellow and white stripes or a more sombre greyish blue for the less adventurous. Most Conference visitors seemed to opt for the more flamboyant example. The greyish-blue variety, however, was sold out and a further 50 have been ordered.

## Golf

On a rather chilly Friday morning at the magnificent Canford Magna Golf course more than 40 golfers teed off for the Raymond Rand Trophy and the Tom Wolfenden Cup (for the lady golfers). Bishop Tom Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool took part.



*"By 'eck My Lord, that's a fair old distance" says PGP Mike O'Malley, right, to Bishop Tom Williams*

The Provincial Officers' meeting was well attended with brothers from the UK and overseas present. Each Director with special responsibilities gave a short presentation about the work of their Group on Grand Council and then took their places at various round tables in the Dorchester room of the Highcliff Hotel to answer individual queries from those present.



*Grand President Vernon welcomes the Mayor of Bournemouth*

On Friday evening, the main event was the Civic Reception held in the Purbeck room at the massive Bournemouth International Conference Centre (BIC). Prior to joining over 600 brothers and their wives in the main hall, Grand President and the principal officers had been entertained at a small reception by the Mayor of Bournemouth Councillor Mrs Beryl Baxter and her consort. Bournemouth Council was most hospitable and the Dolphin Marching Band was enthusiastic in their music welcoming Catenians and their families from across the Association.

The new Grand President Vernon and Evelyn DeCruz had brought 22 members of their family to the weekend from both the UK and USA. They were made most welcome by all those at the reception. The Mayor of Bournemouth welcomed the Association to the Borough followed by a brief speech of thanks from our incoming Grand President. A new feature

this year was the hot buffet which was then served.

## Presentations

Another new feature was that presentations were made to outgoing members of Grand Council in front of the assembly rather than at a small reception earlier in the day. Philomena McNally presented the Grand President's Lady's jewel to Evelyn DeCruz. In return Grand President presented Philomena with a small jewel as a memento of her year supporting her husband. He then made presentations to the ladies of those leaving Grand Council. Finally, Immediate Past Grand President Joe McNally made a presentation of a specially printed book to His Excellency Michael Whelan of Kenilworth Circle in thanks for the work he had done in facilitating and leading the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. All this made a pleasant and warming interlude.



*Grand President Vernon and Evelyn, the First Lady of the Association with the new International Membership Trophy*

The Conference on Saturday morning was held in the Tregonwell Hall at the BIC at which 373 brothers attended. There was a small exhibition area in the foyer where one could purchase books on the Bournemouth Bicentenary, pick up information brochures on the 2011 Conference in Newcastle/Gateshead and