



However, I acknowledge that it occurs after the August 2009 deadline. I believe that the installation of a Catenian National Monument at the National Memorial Arboretum would be a permanent symbol of recognition for those Catenians who have lost their lives or have been injured whilst serving in the recognised fields of service.

The individual names and specific totals would not have to be identified because the engraved tributes could be worded in generic terms and would not require updating.

I would, therefore, be interested in any response from fellow Catenians regarding the principle of my proposal and whether it should be pursued further as a potential Catenian initiative.

David Greatrex
City of Lichfield Circle

Restructuring

Sir, I welcome John Bishop's comments on ever increasing costs of major Catenian functions (Dec issue). The London Central centenary celebration achieved a break-even financial result. This was due to the astuteness of the sub-committee with the help of Bro Peter Rand.

This brings me to an associated topic. Grand Council will shortly deliberate on the proposals of the 'Restructure Commission 2009'. How are these proposals to be financed? Has a feasibility study been undertaken? Has an interim report been published? Yet the election of an International Governing Council is on the table for discussion.

I welcome Grand Council's intention to establish redefined Provinces, but to elect an International President at this stage of discussion suggests status seeking.

Who are the candidates and who is entitled to vote?

At a convenient time (not market conditions), 'Chesham Place' will be sold to finance such an International Project with all its ramifications. I also suggest capitation fees will regularly increase to finance this International Association, remembering the words of Bro Tony Godden to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem: "We are not Catholic Action and neither are we a fund raising organisation". Far be it from me to suggest we are status seeking and elitist!

I believe the Catenian Association exists for the good of its members, 'be they in difficulty or need'. One third of the UK membership is in retirement and within the next 20 years many of us will

experience the surroundings of retirement homes, having spent upwards of 30 years as a Catenian.

Our retirement home may be far from our Province let alone our Circle, but as we prepare for our journey to Heaven it would be comforting to know that a local Catenian member(s) – proudly Catholic – is there to visit while Grand Council, operating through Provincial structure, is aware of any financial consideration. The Association requires ongoing finance to fulfil its commitment to its motto. Capitation fees realise in excess of £300k. 'Chesham Place' will also realise ongoing steady income; consider six flats let at an average of £1,500 per month (NET), giving a net annual income of £18,000. A similar income from a fluctuating Stock Market at 3% Net would require an investment of £6 million. But remember, much of this investment will be spent in setting up our new International image let alone the cost of maintaining such a structure, hence the increase in capitation fees and increase in membership to offset costs, need I go on.

John O'Shea
London Central and Coulsdon Circles

Outstanding Letters

Sir, Three letters published in the January issue of Catena were outstanding. Full of common sense and reflected, in my view, the values of all that's best in our Association. I refer to the letters written by Robert Salvatori, and co-signed by 12 brothers in Canterbury Circle and the letters written by Bob Bowie, Maidstone, and Francis Walker, Stafford. If Grand Council's 'proposed' definition of a practising Catholic were to be accepted, I predict many members would feel obliged in conscience to resign from our Association.

Bob Hughes
Wharfedale Circle

A Striking Message

Sir, Those fortunate enough to attend the recent 1000th meeting of Accrington Circle, were presented with a well researched, beautifully illustrated History of the Circle, written by the Circle Vice-President Andrew Snapes, as a souvenir.

This History includes two or three quotations, which in my view are of interest to the general membership and Andrew has graciously given me permission to reproduce them in this letter.

The first quotation contains a message, which is so striking, that it was used by Canon David Lupton, chief celebrant at the concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving, which preceded the meeting, as the basis for his homily.

What is this striking message - "Tell them to be joyful in the joy of their Faith" is the message sent to the Circle on the occasion of their 500th meeting in 1968, from His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Cardinale.

Also at that 500th meeting celebration, Bishop Burke said during his toast to the Association "The Association had been a great power for good in the Church not only providing loyal support in parishes but also providing Christian witness in business and the professions".

In my experience these words have been echoed subsequently by more than one Bishop and Archbishop.

One other quote, taken from the History, which bears repetition, is: "...in 1957... in his toast to the Catenian Association Fr J Carus ...noted that despite 'ample evidence' of the charitable work done by the Association, of which he had received notice during his time as a priest, 'the members themselves would not admit to having done anything'". Surely this approach is in line with Matthew's Gospel chapter 6 verses 1 – 4. "Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice;But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be in secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you".

John Barrie
Past Grand President
Croydon Circle

SSPX Not the Real Threat

Sir, Let's keep focussed on the real threat to Catholicism - which certainly does not emanate from SSPX.

According to Catholic doctrine, God founded one church and that subsists today in the Catholic Church.

The present Pontiff's various invitations to Orthodox, to SSPX and to Anglicans is for them to hear Christ through that one church.

Success in these initiatives should place the Catholic Church in a better, and on a broader, footing to deal with the real threat to British society which is from the rise of aggressive secularism and radical Islam.

Bernard Diver
Croydon Circle