



# Scottish Catenian Family Weekend

**A**lmost 80 brothers, family members and friends attended the 35th Annual Scottish Catenian Family Weekend held at the Carnoustie Golf Hotel, Angus, from 22nd to 24th January 2010. The brothers were honoured by the presence for the whole weekend of the Most Rev Mario Conti, Archbishop of Glasgow and Grand President Joe and Philomena McNally.

Friday evening began with an informal dinner. Eddie O'Donnell, Stirling Circle, principal organiser of the weekend, welcomed all present. He announced that the charity to benefit from fund-raising during the weekend would be the Priests for Scotland vocations initiative. After the meal an entertaining quiz was presented by Eddie.



*The winners pictured left to right Madaline Kelly and Brendan Ward of Stirling Circle; Grand President; and Fred and Angela MacConnell of East Kilbride Circle*

On Saturday morning the Archbishop celebrated a well attended Mass in the hotel. George Brand, Aberdeen Circle, assisted his Grace. Margaret Birrell gave the Readings, while two of the children present, Lauren Bell and Louise McBride presented the offertory gifts. Philomena McNally and Kelly Godden assisted as Eucharistic Ministers.

On Saturday evening a Formal Dinner was held. With his Grace Archbishop Conti, Grand President Joe and Philomena at the top table were the Provincial Directors, Tony Godden and Gerry Devine, their wives Kelly and Beryl, and the Provincial Presidents, George MacDonald and Paddy McLaughlin with their wives Irene and Margaret. Before the meal Eddie presented a short game of Stand-Up Bingo. the eventual winner being Richard Henderson, son of Michael Henderson of Aberdeen Circle, former Provincial Director.

After dinner his Grace proposed the toast to the Association, praising brothers for the part they played in the Lay Apostolate sharing in the mission of Salvation. He wished brothers and the Association a long life to continue in this service.

Grand President replied, speaking of the debt Catenians in Scotland owed to their Hierarchy for the encouragement and support given to the Association, particularly by His Eminence Cardinal O'Brien and the Archbishop himself.

In his toast to the Guests Tony Godden thanked the Archbishop for his support which had been evident throughout the 25 years he had spent in Aberdeen Diocese. He praised Grand President for the work he had done for the Association. His year in office had seen the commencement of the restructuring, and the further internationalisation of the Catenians, with two circles opening in India. Tony also thanked those who had travelled up from south of the border.

Gerry Devine proposed the Vote of Thanks. He was particularly pleased by the efforts His Grace and Grand President had made to be present in spite of busy schedules.



*The Archbishop of Glasgow pictured with Grand President and some of the many kilted brothers who attended the weekend*

He was grateful to Eddie O'Donnell for his work in ensuring the success of the weekend.

The charity raffle which followed provided entertainment and pleasure for many prizewinners with around 20 prizes distributed. Next came the presentation of Provincial Trophies.

The Province 16 Henderson Trophy for Recruitment went to the new Inverness Group with the Godden Trophy for Visitation going to West Lothian Circle. Province 9 Browning Trophies for Attendance and Benevolence were gained by Strathkelvin Circle, with Glasgow Circle holding on to that for Visitation. The Devine Trophy for Recruitment will be shared by Giffnock and Glasgow Circles.



*Four year old, Emma Henderson, an early learner of the Catenian traditions of Friendship, and Family through Faith, shares her plate of chips with the Grand President, Archbishop Mario and top table*

Mass on Sunday morning was a memorable occasion; George Brand once again assisted the Archbishop. Grand President Joe and Gerry Devine gave the Readings while the Bidding Prayers were shared by the Provincial Presidents George MacDonald and Paddy McLaughlin. Philomena McNally was joined by Beryl Devine in assisting with the distribution of the Eucharist. At the end of Mass Tony Godden thanked everyone for ensuring the success of what had been a most enjoyable weekend.

To date the Priests for Scotland charity has benefitted by around £800 from the generosity of those attending the weekend. To all a hearty vote of thanks, and congratulations to Eddie O'Donnell on his successful efforts.

**Paddy McLaughlin**