



Past Grand President Phil Gidman, left, with Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, at the launch of the Centenary Appeal

agreed that plans should be put in hand to formally launch the Appeal at the centenary conference in Manchester. Articles appeared in the January and February 2008 copies of Catena and members were able to appreciate the full extent of the benefits that the joint action could produce. By April 2008 money had already started to flow and pledges of support given. Perhaps the most imaginative money-raiser at that stage was the decision of a Catenian widower and his bride-to-be to ask for donations to the Appeal rather than wedding presents at their forthcoming marriage and the happy pair handed over their cheque to Grand President David Taylor at the Manchester Conference.

By the time of the conference in Manchester it would seem that members had taken the concept of a Centenary Charity to heart. The brothers in Australia had started to promote the project with Caritas Australia, those in Ireland made the first of their donations during the Grand President's tour in April 2008 and those in Malta and Scotland had started their fundraising activities.

At least one page of Catena was devoted to the fundraising activities every month during the centenary year and that showed what innovative and valuable methods were used to raise funds.

Grand President David Taylor ensured that the momentum never slackened and that wherever he went members were encouraged to support it. As Chris Bain said in his article in January's Catena, 'members have walked, danced, run and raffled their way to raising a quarter of a million pounds'.

The sum given to Cafod and the other Catholic aid agencies is amazing and has been raised from a total of nearly 940 different sources.

Virtually every circle and province in the Association has taken part along with individual brothers, their families and their non-Catenian friends. The sum is probably the largest the Association has ever raised for a single cause and really

will leave a lasting legacy of our centenary. For an Association that does not promote charitable causes members have shown that if there is a cause that they consider worthy then they will support it.

I cannot finish this article without thanking a fellow member of Grand Council for heading the marketing of our Centenary Charity.

Many letters went out in my name and many articles were written in Catena. Bro Philip Harris, Director of Province 15 is a marketing wizard. He regularly took my rambling draft letters and turned them into information pieces; he kept up the marketing momentum and is still ensuring that we are all informed as to how our money is now being spent. Phil, a big public 'thank you'.

Finally, may I personally thank every member of our wonderful Association for turning an aspiration of a Lasting Legacy of our first 100 years as an Association into reality.



Phil Harris

Philip Gidman

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