

# Catenian Centenary Yacht Rally

*Although the Catenian Centenary Yacht Rally was a very small event compared with the many other Centenary celebrations, for those brothers who had not sailed before and joined the crews of one of the participating vessels, it proved a major challenge, with the wind reaching force seven at times on the Friday. (For those non sailors, a near gale.)*

First to reach Lyminster on Saturday 28th June 2008 was *Merrywake* with the four brothers from Weymouth Circle, having sailed a day early and broken their journey in Poole. They were shortly followed with the arrival of the Croydon brothers in *Island Spirit* who had had a long beat from Port Solent. Next to arrive was the first of the Bournemouth brothers in *Linnet* from Bucklers Hard, whilst Terry Quinn only had to row over from his mooring in the river. The Axminster brothers then arrived in *Olivia K* after having had to delay their early morning departure from Portland Harbour by an hour due to thick fog. Andrew Martin, the President of Croydon Circle, then provided the entertainment, going up to the top of *Island Spirit's* mast to retrieve their topping lift. Just as they were giving up hope Adrian Holloway, the President of Salisbury Circle, arrived in *Kismet* to complete the fleet. It was then off to Mass in Lyminster where the Catenian sailors were given a special mention during the service. Mass was followed by an excellent dinner in the Royal Lyminster

Yacht Club. (Our thanks to Tom Rayner of Bournemouth Circle for making all the arrangements.)

Luckily for the return passage the weather had moderated and both *Merrywake* and *Olivia K* had some excellent sailing for the final leg of their voyage from St Albans Head to Weymouth.

Owing to the clash with the Round the Island Race Michael Douse of Isle of Wight Circle, was unable to join the group and the weather prevented brothers from Jersey Circle making the voyage. However, it was something of an achievement, considering the weather, that so many brothers were able to participate and the event went ahead as planned. They were given a very warm welcome in Lyminster and it made all the effort of getting there worthwhile.



Skipper Mark Kemmis-Betty and first mate John Bywater at the helm of *Merrywake*



The Weymouth crew arrive: (L to R) Mike Hart, Colin Clare, John Bywater, Mark Kemmis-Betty (skipper)

# Dominique Pesezat - A Stranger No More

*This article which appeared in the May 2008 edition of Catena was referred to in the Rt Rev Terence Drainey's homily at the Centenary Mass at York Minster. It had a great effect on him and particularly Dominique's words, "The Catenian Association opens a space where Faith, Hope and Charity can be incarnated in today's world".*

*I am a 30 years old Frenchman, and I recently joined Luton Circle.*

In 2000, as I was finishing my Master in Finance & Management Control in France, I applied to Aston Business School (Aston University) in Birmingham in order to study a MSc in International Business. Anne, at that time my fiancée, was keen to travel and work abroad, so this experience was a "must do" in order to fulfil this wish. During this year in the West Midlands and again following Anne's advice, I applied to various graduate programmes and four months before the end of the Master programme, Exel (the logistics company) offered me a job within their European Graduate Programme (I worked for Exel/DHL until 2007 in a variety of operational and project management roles). In June 2007, I joined the Supply Chain Consultancy practice of Capgemini and I am now based in central London though I spend most of my time in clients' premises.

Family wise, we got married in 2001. Anne came to study a MSc as a British Council scholar in the UK and then joined a professional services firm in their Audit practice. Our life gradually took on an increased British flavour!

Our first son, Jean-Emmanuel (six years old) was born in Birmingham, then Samuel (three years old) joined the family as we moved to the South East and more recently Raphaëlle (two weeks old) who was also born in the Luton & Dunstable hospital. We have been involved with the Christian Life Community (CLC), a Jesuits lay organisation based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, since our time in Birmingham. We are now part of a CLC group in St Albans.

We heard about the Catenians at a Sunday morning Mass in Luton in early 2007 when Brian Plunkett gave a fantastic presentation on what the Catenians are. That's when everything started! During the first evenings I was invited, I have been amazed by the



Dominique, left, is welcomed into the Association by Luton Circle President Julian Healy in November 2007.



Anne Pesezat with their children Samuel, Raphaëlle and Jean-Emmanuel

openness and unselfishness of the Brothers of Luton Circle. My wife and I were not aware of the existence of the Catenians as they are not yet present in France. We feel as practising Catholics (we met at the University chaplaincy in Strasbourg), that the Catenian Association opens a space where Faith, Hope and Charity can be incarnated in today's world. We would like to thank all the Brothers and their spouses that have welcomed us in such a moving hearty way. "I was a stranger, and you took me in" (Mt 25.35).