



Grand Vice President David Taylor invites you to... **COME AND JOIN ME IN MANCHESTER**

Every Brother will find with their Catena this month a copy of the exciting Brochure and Booking Form for the Centenary Conference and Social Weekend in Manchester from 15th to 18th May 2008. The "finishing post" is in sight, for the most momentous occasion in our history, when we will gather in large numbers to celebrate 100 years of friendship based on our Blessed Catholic Faith.

We are hoping that this Conference, which will be unique in all of our lives, will spur many Brothers who have never been to Conference to join us with their wives and their fellow Circle members. The aim is to have a total of 1800 people attending and all the hard work that is going into preparing this Conference by the Manchester Liaison Committee, Brothers Peter Rand, Brian Taylor and our Head Office staff, will blossom into something very special.

As your Grand President Elect for the Centenary year, I would ask for your support to bring my personal Conference objectives to fruition:

1. Where possible every Circle and Provincial President will attend, to represent their Circle and Province. On Friday there will be an opportunity for all Presidents and their wives to meet. You will receive an invitation to a lunchtime gathering, giving you the chance to meet members of Grand Council and make new friends, with those who, like you, have the desire to serve as President in the Centenary Year. This is a bond that we will all have that will never be broken.

2. In this Year of Preparation for our Centenary, please bring along at least one newly enrolled Brother. This very special event will ensure that the new Brother and his wife understand the depth and benefits of our wonderful Association.

3. There are many Widows in the Association who would love to be in Manchester, but cannot face the journey by train. It would be a truly Christian act for each Circle to consider bringing at least one special lady with them to enable her to share in the celebrations and also the tributes that will be paid to their late husbands and all those who have gone before us to God's Kingdom.

4. Finally, there are a number of Circles in the South looking into the possibilities of banding together and travelling by coach; this offers many benefits including carefree travel, no parking costs and most importantly the chance for those elderly Brothers and Widows to travel in comfort and share the convivial company of their Catenian families.

You will see from the very well designed Brochure that there is a very full programme of events, starting on the Thursday evening with a Manchester Circle Centenary Mass of Thanksgiving followed by the Manchester Circle Centenary Dinner for those who wish to start the weekend early. I would urge all Brothers who are attending Conference to make a special effort to attend the Manchester Circle Centenary Meeting on Friday afternoon; this promises to be the largest Catenian Circle meeting ever held and you will be able to tell your Catenian grandchildren "I was there".



David Taylor

My personal commitment is to visit the grave of our Founder Grand President John O'Donnell in Moston Cemetery which will be a deeply emotional and spiritual experience for me. I also hope to visit the grave of Bishop Louis Casartelli to pay tribute to these two great men to whom we owe such a debt.

For those who enjoy studying the history of our Association, a new Centenary History of the Association published by the well respected Catenian author Dr James Hagerty KSG of Bradford and Wharfedale Circles, will be on sale and, I am sure, will be purchased in great numbers both during the Conference and in the Centenary year.

For those wishing a more tangible look into our 100 years there will be a display of Catenian memorabilia at the Manchester Central Library, which is being organized by John Woodhouse of Rochdale Circle who would welcome as much material as possible from around the country to ensure that we have a well balanced exhibition of our growth over the last 100 years.

Brothers, we now start the countdown to the celebrations for our Centenary. I urge you not to hesitate and be disappointed; book now to be sure of obtaining the Hotel and the Saturday evening function of your choice.

Kathleen and I look forward to meeting you all in Manchester and may God Bless each and every one of you now and in the years to come.



Manchester Central Library