

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

General background

The Catenian Association is an organisation for practicing Catholic men, with about 9,000 members world-wide. It was founded in 1908, initially as the 'Chums Benevolent Association', with the encouragement of the then Bishop of Salford, Louis Charles Casartelli; in 1910 the name was changed to the 'Catenian Association'.

The Association is active in the United Kingdom, Eire, Malta, Australia, and India, and is divided into area 'Provinces' each of which, in turn, is divided into 'Circles' which generally meet once a month. The primary aim of the Association is to strengthen family life through a shared faith and friendship among like-minded Catholics, their families and friends. It is non-political and is not a Catholic action or fund-raising organisation, but it does actively support and encourage those of its members who are involved in many other Catholic organisations, both at local and national level. Many Catenians play an important and active part in supporting their Parish's life.

Catenians are proudly Catholic, and praying together forms a central part of the monthly Circle meetings. Masses are said annually for deceased brothers and family members, and for vocations to the Priesthood and Diaconate.

Though membership is restricted to men only, most functions outside the monthly meetings of Circles are open to wives, families and friends, and their attendance at such events is warmly and actively encouraged. At many monthly meetings wives are entertained, outside the meeting, to talks, demonstrations, etc, whilst the men deal with the business of the meeting.

Benevolence is also a very strong element in the philosophy of the Association. It has a Benevolent Fund for those members and their families who are in need of financial assistance, and a Bursary Fund to which teenagers and young adults (not necessarily related to a Catenian) may apply for financial assistance when undertaking voluntary work, e.g. helping the sick on pilgrimages to Lourdes, or involvement in third-world poverty and medical relief projects.

Chorley Circle

Chorley Circle was the 23rd Circle to be founded in the Association, being inaugurated on the 18th May, 1914, with 18 members; the first President of the Circle was Thomas Halliwell Kevill, a Solicitor.

The Circle meets on the second Monday of each month at Shaw Hill Golf and Spa Hotel, Whittle-le-Woods; meetings commence at 7:30pm and are usually followed by a two-course meal, often in the company of our Ladies.

Chorley Circle is in Province 10 of the Association along with 14 other Circles, those being Preston (3 Circles), Lytham St. Annes, Broughton-in-Craven, Accrington, Blackburn with Ribble Valley, Burnley, Furness, Longridge, North Lancashire, South Ribble, Garstang, and Westmorland. Visiting between Circles is encouraged.

Of the members of Chorley Circle, over the years:

10 have served as Mayor of Chorley, with 2 becoming Alderman

1 BME, 2 MBE's, 1 OBE, and 1 CBE have been awarded to members and wives

2 members have been awarded The Order of St. Gregory the Great (KSG) by the Pope

4 members have been awarded the Papal decoration 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice'

Our late member Dr. Peter Wren was awarded 'The Sovereign Military Hospitalier Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta'

5 members and 3 wives have been invested in 'The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem' (KHS)

Bernard Thompson was killed in action in the battle of Cambrai on Christmas Eve, 1917, aged 30.

Interested? For further information contact: chorley23@btinternet.com, or call John Holland on 07770 226925.

To access the Catenians National website go to: www.thecatenians.com