

VENERABLE VIEW

Published by The Friends of



The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Benefactors

The view from my window is of the French Alps - as I am writing this from the plane! I am returning from a brief visit to England to honour the College's benefactors, Mr Urs and Mrs Francesca Schwarzenbach. As their Ordinary, Archbishop Longley of Birmingham presided at a Mass in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Henley-on-Thames, during which they received a significant papal honour. Bishop Roche of Leeds, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee of Bishops responsible for the College, invested Mr and Mrs Schwarzenbach, at the end of Mass, as Knight Grand Cross of the First Class and Dame Grand Cross of the First Class in the Order of St Gregory.

We then retired to their home of Culham Court for a celebration dinner at the end of which I thanked them formally on behalf of the students and staff for all they had enabled us to achieve in the refurbishment of the College Church, the Tribune, the Salone and the Third Library as well as the creation of an Archive and Rare Books

**Spring
2011**

Room, the equipping, along with the Friends, of a gym, and the creation of an exhibition area in the crypt.

Staff

The former Vice-Rector, Fr Andrew Headon, Parish Priest of the Parish of Saints Peter & Paul in Ilford in the Diocese of Brentwood, was also with us; and so could be thanked once again for all he had done to oversee these several projects.

The new Vice-Rector, Fr Mark Harold of Salford Diocese, has been in post since last September - as has his successor as Pastoral Tutor, Fr John Paul Leonard of the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Mgr Phil Carroll of Hexham & Newcastle is in his last year as Spiritual Director. His successor, Fr Chris Willis of Leeds, is preparing to join us by assisting with the Propaedeutics Year in Valladolid.

Meanwhile, Fr Tony Milner of Arundel & Brighton remains as Academic Tutor.

Fifteen new students

The fifteen students scheduled to begin with us last autumn all duly arrived. There were nine seminarians from English dioceses: Philip Andrews from Southwark, John Carlisle from Leeds, David Doran from Birmingham, Joseph Gee from Salford, Derek Hyett from Westminster, Colin Mason from Clifton, Stephen O'Brien from Arundel & Brighton, Peter Stoddart from Hexham & Newcastle, and Elliott Wright from Leeds.

We were pleased to welcome three Norsemen too: Olafur Arnason from Iceland; and Kasper Baadsgaard and Jan Hansen from Denmark.

Two student-priests, Frs Nicholas Doublet and Guy de Gaynesford, from Malta and Plymouth respectively, came to embark on further studies.

We also welcomed Marcus Walker, an Anglican Ordinand, currently in training at Cuddesden.

A community of forty-two
So the academic year began with thirty seminarians: one for Arundel & Brighton, one for Antigonish, one for Birmingham, one for Clifton, two for Copenhagen, one for Hexham & Newcastle, six for Leeds, one for Liverpool, one for Menevia, one for Middlesbrough, one for Northampton, one for Portsmouth, one for Reykjavik, one for Salford, three for Shrewsbury, three for Southwark and four for Westminster.

With the addition of one Anglican Ordinand and six priests, this amounted to a student body of thirty-seven.

With a staff of five, this made for a community of some forty-two residents.

Since the start of the year, Mgr Bryan Chestle went for a break to St John's Convent, Kiln Green, where he has decided he would like to stay. Mgr Bryan made a very great contribution to the life of the College - as well as to the work of the Secretariat of State - and is sorely missed. He has been a very welcoming presence to many *Friends of the Venerabile*, too.

A welcome addition to the College this term was Fr David Bulmer, who returned to us from Leeds to complete a doctorate.

New term

The first weekend of this term saw us all at Palazzola for a Human Development weekend led by Fr Gerard Byrne of St Luke's Centre, Manchester.

The second week back coincided with the Unity of Prayer for Christian Unity: we had Fr Charles Morerod OP, Rector of the Angelicum University, preach at a Mass for Unity, to be followed the next day by Canon Jonathan Boardman giving the Spiritual Conference: Canon Jonathan is Vicar of the English parish here in Rome and was himself an Anglican Exchange student in the 1980s.

Candidacy

The Christmas term had ended with the admission of six seminarians as Candidates: Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor admitted as Candidates Michael Coughlan of Shrewsbury, Edward Henley and Stefan Kaminski of Westminster, Steven Leightell of Middlesbrough, Sandy MacDonald of Antigonish, and Benjamin Theobald of Portsmouth.

We look forward to the ordination as Deacons of Michael Doody for Leeds and Michael Patey for Northampton - for which Bishop Doyle of Northampton will be coming to Palazzola next July.

Beatification

Many students had difficulty getting home in the snow. By the time the College had emptied for the vacation, it seemed a very long time since we had all converged on Crofton Park for the Mass of Cardinal Newman's Beatification last September. It made a tremendous start to the year to gather in groups at the top and bottom of the country - at Allen Hall in

Chelsea and St Cuthbert's in Ushaw - to make our way to Birmingham. Our students will treasure the privilege of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful after witnessing Pope Benedict perform the first Beatification ever to take place in England.



The Rector with Rev Jack Sullivan

Blessed John Henry Newman was not an Old Roman but he visited the *Venerabile* some twenty times. His first visit was with Hurrell Froude, when they called on Rector Wiseman. When Newman became a Cardinal, the reception was held in the College's First Library.

All of this was vividly brought home to me when I had the privilege of welcoming to the College, a few days after the Beatification, Deacon Jack Sullivan, the recipient of the miracle which enabled Cardinal Newman's Beatification. Deacon Jack was deeply moved to stand where Newman had stood and contemplate the two fine portraits of the *Beatus* which are housed in the College.

Large numbers in formation

Blessed John Henry must surely have been looking down on the *Venerabile* men as they gathered round Pope Benedict a few hours after the Mass in Cofton with seminarians from

all over Britain on the lawn of Oscott College. One could not help but be encouraged by the number of men one saw to be in formation. At a meeting of English Rectors last term, we confirmed that we have, in the seven English-and-Welsh seminaries, 175 seminarians for our dioceses not including former Anglican ministers.

The students feel extraordinarily blessed to have been present then and also to be anticipating now the beatification in Rome of Pope John Paul II: one wonders if Rome will be even more full than it was for the Holy Father's funeral in 2005!

New academic year

Year's start saw the Vice-Rector, Fr Mark, return to join the *Friends* for their AGM in Hammersmith. He was pleased to have the opportunity once again to thank the *Friends* for their faithfulness and generosity - in particular for the latest grant which allowed us to buy several much-needed computers, which have transformed the quality of life here.

Back in Italy, we were well prepared for all that the year would hold by making a good retreat up at Palazzola in the first week back. We alternate between a preached retreat one year and an individually guided retreat the next.

This year, Fr Gerry Whelan, an Irish Jesuit teaching at the Gregorian, led a team of retreat-guides; and the prayerfulness of the week was impressive.

We had with us for the next fortnight Archbishop Kelly of Liverpool, here for the Synod. He came with us to lead our recollection day at the shrine of *Divino Amore*, where we consecrate the year to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. Archbishop Kelly has generously agreed to lead our preached retreat next autumn.

We had Dom Timothy Wright, former Abbot of Ampleforth and now Spiritual Director at the Beda College, lead our Advent Recollection. Bishop Crowley, Emeritus of Middlesbrough, will lead our Holy Week retreat at the Villa.



Photo courtesy of Carol Richardson

New corridor for students

I began this article on the plane, as I told you. I'm finishing it back in *Via di Monserrato*. When I landed, I was met at the airport by Fr Tony Milner to be taken to Palazzola, in anticipation of dinner at *Villa Ariccia* in Ariccia with Tonino, our builder. We were treated to a mountain of shellfish! Palazzola and the *Castelli* looked all very dark and wintry.

The view from my window in College this late January afternoon is similarly quiet, grey and wet.

But I know that, by the next time I write, the heat will have reclaimed it all again. The cement-mixer will be turning in the *Cortile* because Tonino will be installing new ceilings in the *Mayfair* corridor so as to better insulate them. The reason is that we are going to need these rooms for students.

It was always hoped, when the Old Romans paid for the refurbishment of those seven rooms, that we would house seminarians there in due course. It is marvellously encouraging to find our numbers swelling so much that we open up a new corridor to seminarians.

But we must continue to "Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers to his Harvest". I know this is the *Friends'* highest priority - to pray for the students and future students; and that we can count on you to hold all our endeavours constantly before the Lord.

For our part, we often give thanks to God for all that the *Friends* have done and continue to be for us: we ask the Lord to grant an eternal reward to all the *Friends* who have gone before us and to bless you for your unfailing support.

**Mgr Nicholas Hudson
Rector**

FRIENDS' SILVER JUBILEE REUNION

The Friends celebrated their silver jubilee at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green, Hammersmith on a sunny Saturday, 2 October 2010.

Our meeting took place in the excellent, modern hall adjoining the very lovely Church.

We were delighted to welcome the College's new Vice-Rector Fr Mark Harold, who gave us a fine, thoughtful account of the Venerable's past year, illustrated with the Rector's power-point photographs, and a few of Fr Mark's own. We heard of Archbishop Vincent Nichols' Pallium Mass, the re-opening of the College Church after its splendid restoration, and a Royal baptism, as well as news of the students and their formation. Fr Mark paid special tribute to the work of his predecessor Fr Andrew Headon in transforming the fabric of both the College and Palazzola, and his work too in arranging the marvellous Hyde Park Vigil during the recent Papal Visit. He announced that 12 new seminarians would be joining the College community that very weekend, a great blessing.

This excellent presentation was followed by our business meeting chaired by Jo Barnacle. The theme was renewal - the need to find new members and thus increase the support we can provide to the College. Our membership now numbers only about 420. The annual accounts, prepared by our Treasurer Hamish Keith, showed that our income amounted to £18,045 while expenses totalled £7,520,

giving us a net income of £10,525. This was a drop of over £3,000 compared with the previous year and is mainly attributable to a decline in membership.

Our Chairman expressed her commitment to boost membership over the coming year, particularly from the many visitors to Palazzola. In the past year the Friends had donated £13,000 towards the cost of re-tiling the swimming-pool at Palazzola, and purchasing new computers for the students' use at the College. Finally, a new Committee was elected (see the Chairman's report for details). Special thanks were given to John Broun, on his retirement after 14 years' devoted service as our Hon. Secretary.

We enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch before our last presentation, given by the Senior Student, Liam Bradley. Liam is distinguished in two special ways. Firstly, although raised in Cheltenham, he has offered himself for service in the diocese of Menevia. Secondly, he is a trained guide to the *Scavi*, the excavations of the necropolis beneath Saint Peter's Basilica, including Saint Peter's burial place itself. With the aid of some plans and pictures, Liam gave us a fascinating account of the building of the Basilica over 2,000 years and the recent discovery of Saint Peter's grave. For those of us who had been privileged enough to actually visit the excavations, Liam's presentation served as an excellent aide memoire.

Our happy reunion concluded with Mass for the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, concelebrated by the Vice-Rector and Fr Thomas Wood, assisted by Deacons Liam Bradley and Mark Woods. In the Liturgy of the Word, we met again our old friends Turtledove, Cassia and Mascara (Jb 42:14). We felt truly blessed.

Jeremy Hudson

FRIENDS' VISIT

Each year the Friends have organised a visit to places of historic Catholic interest.

Following interest expressed, Jo Barnacle has arranged for us to visit the Oratory in Birmingham on **Saturday 12 March 2010**. The visit will start with the Pilgrims Mass at 11 am followed by veneration of the relic, prayers at the Shrine and time to visit to the exhibition.

In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to visit Saint Chad's Cathedral - one of Birmingham's architectural and artistic gems - designed by Augustus Pugin.

Please bring something for a shared lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.

The cost will be £5 (payable on the day). Details of how to reach the Oratory can be found at www.birmingham-oratory.org.uk and for St Chad's Cathedral at www.stchadscathedral.org.uk (and will be sent to those not on internet).

To book for this visit please write to Anthony Coles at 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX or email arctc@btinternet.com.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PEN

Many thanks to those of you who managed to get to the 2010 Annual Meeting in London. As a committee we apologise for the short notice of the meeting. We were late in deciding the date because of Pope Benedict's visit. What an inspiring time that was.

The main talking point was the decline in the number of *Friends*. We have now been going for over twenty years and many of the people who joined in the beginning have died or gone on to other interests.

So we are launching a recruitment drive. We have not recruited many of the visitors to the College or Palazzola over the last few years. We have now contacted the College staff over this and have their word that they will help us get the message of what we do to all visitors. I have written a personal letter to all visitors which will be placed in the welcome packs explaining our role in helping the students and asking for their help.

One suggestion made at our Annual Meeting was to encourage every *Friend* to recruit one more. If this happened we would double our membership!

Papal award for John Broun

At our Annual Meeting John Broun retired after fourteen years as Secretary to the *Friends*.

For his work he has been awarded the Papal Medal *Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice*.

We hope that Archbishop Vincent Nichols will present the medal to him at our next committee meeting in February and we will celebrate this award at our next Annual Meeting.

Committee members

Jim Holroyd, brother of Mgr Philip Holroyd was elected as the new Secretary of the *Friends* and Louise Sage elected as a new member of the committee.

Simon Howell, Jeremy Hudson, Hamish Keith (treasurer), Mike Lang (membership secretary) Carol Richardson, Yvonne Veale, and Rodney Webb were all re-elected as committee members. Anthony Coles and Fr Thomas Wood (chaplain) attend our committee meetings as ex-officio members.

Your prayers

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following three *Friends* who died recently. James (aka Jim) Harold, a regular attender at our Annual Meetings and father of Fr Mark, the Vice Rector. Also for Tom Fattorini who served for a time on the Committee. Also for Fred Ford who some time ago organised a concert in Stockport for the work of the *Friends* which raised £600. I have had a Mass said for each of them on your behalf.

2011 AGM

Our 2011 Annual Meeting will be on **Saturday 17 September** at St Teresa's, Crossgates in Leeds. Do make a note in your diary. The Rector is coming to talk to us. We would love to see you.

Roman Association Martyrs Day Mass

The Midlands Martyrs Mass on Wednesday 1st December was held at the Oratory in Birmingham.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Guy Nichol and concelebrated by some seventeen priests of the Roman Association (an association for former students of the Venerable English College). Many *Friends* and parishioners attended too.

After the Mass we were given a tour of the Oratory. The chapel where we had celebrated Mass is the shrine of Blessed John Henry Newman.

We had the honour of being allowed to see John Henry Newman's room, which has been left as it was in his time. An Oratorian is allowed only one room to call his own. However when he was created Cardinal he was allowed another room as his bedroom. The alcove of this room was converted into a small (very small!) chapel.

The larger room is still as it was with no electric light or heating. It is filled with a large desk and many books. Newman did not use the desk for all his writing, some he wrote while standing up.

Afterwards we viewed the exhibition on Blessed John Henry Newman and were shown the Pope's signature recording his visit to the shrine last September.

Jo Barnacle Chairman

CHRISTMAS 2010 AT PALAZZOLA

I am sure you can all cast your minds back to Christmas and the bad weather with the resultant transport chaos especially at all British Airports. How to get to Palazzola? I had booked to fly on the 21st December from Gatwick and was really not sure that I would make it despite checking on the internet every few hours. However, I set off - the worst part of the journey being the walk (slide) from my flat to the end of the road in order to catch a tram to East Croydon station, thence to Gatwick Airport and eventually arrived at Palazzola at 8 pm. I should have arrived at 6.30 pm. but felt I certainly had nothing to complain about considering all the problems other people had experienced.

When I left Gatwick it was minus 1°C and when I arrived at Palazzola it was 14°C! I was met by George, led to the dining room and given a very welcome bowl of soup.



George serving on Christmas Eve

It is always so good to return to Palazzola, the scenery, the warmth, comfortable beds/rooms, wholesome food and air of peacefulness. It always amazes me that although there is only one

Lake Albano and one view to be seen, yet it changes subtly each and every day.

Many guests experienced delays over the next few days but eventually about thirty of us assembled to enjoy Christmas. We were a very diverse group made up of English, Welsh, Irish, German, Australian, American and Swedish nationalities. The Australian couple were spending Christmas and New Year at Palazzola as an extended celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary round-the-world trip thanks to the generosity of their eldest daughter.

The morning of the 23rd was spent quietly at the Villa and the afternoon in Saint Peter's Basilica and walking around the square in warm sunshine returning to the Villa for a champagne reception and dinner.

Christmas Eve found a good number of us visiting Castel Gandolfo for some shopping therapy and sightseeing. That evening we had the tasty Christmas Eve Banquet followed by the first Mass of Christmas at 11 pm when we again welcomed our Saviour's birth amongst us.

On Christmas morning a number of us went down to Rome by coach. We walked around Tiber Island and thence on to St. Peter's Square to attend the Pope's Urbi et Orbi blessing. It did drizzle that morning and St. Peter's was a sea of multi-coloured umbrellas. However, as soon as the Pope appeared on his balcony and raised his arms,

the rain stopped and all the umbrellas were taken down. Five minutes later the drizzle started again and the umbrellas were very much in evidence - I do not think anyone minded though - it was a great experience to be there for that blessing.



*Father & Mother Christmas
(aka Joyce)*

The 26th was spent on a walk around the Villa grounds and the afternoon in Rome visiting the churches of Saint John at the Latin Gate and the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

My last morning was spent in two small Castelli Romani towns, Ariccia and Genzano, simply window shopping and sitting on a bench in Genzano just soaking up the sun - ah simple pleasures.

That afternoon I left in bright sunshine and was met at Gatwick with thick fog necessitating us to circle the airport several times before landing - it was foggy, damp, wet and miserable. I certainly knew I was back in England!

Here's to the next visit!

Louise Sage

JUBILEE PLAQUE AT PALAZZOLA



Did you know that the small inlaid marble cross, 6" x 9.25" embedded into the cloister wall situated to the left as you leave the Chapel at Palazzola recalls the opening and closure of the Holy Door in 1650 at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome?

The placement of this plaque into the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran was an office delegated to Cardinal Girolomo Colonna (1604-1666). This occurred during the papacy of Pope Innocent X (1644-1655). To put this into a British time context, King Charles I was beheaded at Westminster in 1649.

In 1624 Pope Urban VIII (1623-1644) decided to start work on the construction of a summer palace at Castel Gandolfo, where he already owned a modest residence. The presence of the Papal court in the territory of Albano led to building activity of the highest order in the area and was also the reason for the construction of a Villa on the plateau immediately above Palazzola which was built by Cardinal Colonna following a gift from Urban VIII in 1629 of some property belonging to the Franciscan Friars. This building was part of a vast

property operation conducted by the Colonna family throughout the Marino territory which they had controlled from the first decades of the 15th century.

The plaque was recovered at the opening of the next Jubilee Year in 1675 during the Papacy of Pope Clement X (1670-1676) and then embedded into the wall at Palazzola. Do take the opportunity of seeking out this little gem the next time you visit Palazzola. **Louise Sage**



VENERABLE CUFF LINKS

LIMITED EDITION

In association with the *Friends of the Venerable* we offer you the opportunity to purchase a pair of sterling silver cuff links relief engraved bearing the details of the shield of the Venerable.

The cost is just £55, gift boxed and with free p&p within the United Kingdom

The Edition is limited to 100 pairs with profits to the *Friends of the Venerable*

Cheque with order to Fr Thomas Wood, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA

FRIENDS OF THE VENERABLE

For membership enquiries, please contact:

Mike Lang, 22 Kingsley Avenue, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 8LF

malang@ntlworld.com



View across the lake from Palazzola

VILLA PALAZZOLA

REWARD POINTS PROGRAMME

Every overnight stay you take qualifies for reward points, and for each night you stay you'll receive 10 points which can be redeemed against future bookings! 250 points equals one free night in standard room and 350 in en suite!

What is the Reward Point Programme?

- To thank all our customers for their support and to offer a little something in return we have launched this Reward Point Programme.
- It works very simply: every time you stay at Villa Palazzola you will earn Reward Points for each night you stay.
- Once earned, you'll be able to use those points to pay for future stays at Villa Palazzola.
- The Reward Point Programme began on 15th January 2011 and all bookings made after this date will earn points.

How does the Programme work?

- When you check out, each night you have stayed will be used to calculate the amount of points earned. These points are added to your rewards account as pending points. Please make sure you receive your card from the cashier.
- Reward points have an expiry date of 3 years from the date of your first reward point.
- During the checkout process you'll be able to update your reward points with the cashier.
- It is up to you to ensure points are added to your points card on check out.
- You will need to register and complete our registration form on arrival or during your stay.

Points and Values

- For every night you'll earn 10 points. For example: Stay 7 nights and earn 70 points towards your next stay!
- **Guests who are Friends of the Venerable and have proof of membership are awarded 50 points automatically on registering and 50 points every consecutive year of their membership.**

Redeeming Reward Points

- If you have a balance of at least 250 earned points in your Points Account, you can use those points to pay for your next standard room stay at Villa Palazzola or 350 points for an en suite room.
- Only full paying guests are awarded points, so no points are awarded to under 16 year olds. Points may be redeemed throughout the year except during high season (16 July to 31 August) and on tour operator organised groups.
- No payment may be made with less than 250 points.

- The minimum number of reward points to be redeemed is 250. Points may be accumulated - eg if you have 1050 points then you may redeem them for a 3 night en-suite room stay at Villa Palazzola.
- Points can not be accumulated between two different people.

Will I earn points for Special Offers?

- Yes.

If I am part of a group will I still receive points?

- Yes you will still receive points if you are part of a group. If you are part of a tour operator organised group then it is your responsibility to request your points before your departure, since your tour operator will be settling your bill.

Products Restrictions

- From time to time we may restrict points to certain periods, or we may increase the value of points offered on specific products.
- Points cannot be redeemed for tour operator organised groups.
- **Points may only be redeemed during low (01 Nov to 31 Apr) and mid (01 May to 15 July and 01 Sept to 31 Oct) seasons.**

Conditions of Use

- Reward Points are only available to registered members.
- Reward Points are non-refundable and cannot be transferred between members.
- Reward Points are non-transferable or exchangeable for cash.
- Reward Points will not be awarded for any cancelled booking.
- When paying with Points, you will still have to select another payment method if there is not enough in your Points Account to cover the cost of your stay.
- It is up to you to ensure points are added to your points card on check out.
- No duplicate points cards will be issued.
- Reward points have an expiry date of three years after the first awarded point date.
- Any points not used within the three years validity period will be cancelled.

Naturally we reserve the right to make changes to this policy at any time so please visit www.palazzola.it for the definitive version. In the meantime if you have any queries, please contact me (direttore@palazzola.it) at Palazzola.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Palazzola.

Joyce Hunter, Director