



THE PATRICIAN

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From the Editor...

“Generosity is born of kindness”

In this Newsletter our President speaks of his dream.

It is my dream to ensure that this association retains its enviable position as one of the most successful of the St. Patrick's Old Boys Associations spread all over the world.

He is under no illusions as he steps out to achieve this dream. Let there be no doubt of the enormity of the task that lies ahead.

These thoughts spring from the heart of a devoted and loyal Patrician. In sharing with us his dream he is expressing the wish that it becomes the dream of every single member of the UK Alumni Association. He hopes to stir in us all those three precious gifts that often tend to lie dormant in many of us:

- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ Generosity
- ❖ Gratitude

The beauty of kindness came to me recently through an act of kindness that I received. I recently participated in the Bergen

Global reunion. There were many trips organised for the visitors. Nearing my seventy fifth birthday and probably the oldest attending the reunion (no one challenged me when I made this claim at the dinner dance) my struggle with my arthritic knees were shall we say received sympathy. There was one genuine act of kindness that touched me. I was struggling over a rather rugged terrain when a young lady (pretty looking too) left her group of friends, held me by my arms and helped me up the climb. Without being grateful I found myself strangely resentful at needing help. But that was for a split second. Soon I recognised the act of kindness; kindness shown without being solicited; kindness spontaneously given and the genuine kindness that marks the Patrician family. The very kindness that our President wants us to have for others

in greater need than ourselves. For generosity is born of kindness.

Generosity it may be said should not be likened to a

tree that drops its fruits when shaken by the wind or gives it away when plucked at harvest time. Generosity is best when it is spontaneous when prompted by kindness.

The Tamil poets have some beautiful and colourful ways of expressing generosity. Generosity is not choosy as to the beneficiary. The channels that carry water to the paddy seedlings also feed the unwanted grass that grows alongside them. The coconut palm that drinks the water by its roots generously returns it to the one who watered it as a sweet drink. A vivid display of Generosity and Gratitude.

Many of us who have visited St. Patrick's College will bear witness to how well the school is doing in spite of the ravages it has been through in recent times. It is a display of the true Patrician spirit.

A display of our motto in action: *Fide et Labore*. It is a display of the dedication of the staff to the welfare of the students. A result of the efforts of the students in their studies and in their sporting activities.

We often hear it said that the efforts of the members of the various alumni association are aimed at bringing the school to its former glory. That is frankly an insult to the Rector, staff and students. What they want our help for is to continue to maintain the standards that they have achieved in spite what they have been through and as is the ambition of any school to achieve even greater heights.

I strongly urge every member to read the president's message and respond to his invitation to make his dream and the dream of every genuine Patrician a reality.

However determined we might be we cannot achieve this without God's help. May we pray to our Patron saint to intercede on our behalf and help this dream come true.



Dr A Joseph
Editor

From the President...

My Dear fellow Patricians,

It was a great honor and privilege to be elected as the ninth President of St Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association UK. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the executive committee and the general membership for the trust and confidence placed in me. I hope and pray that I will live up to fulfill the expectations of the membership and hope to carry out the responsibilities placed upon my shoulders as best as I can. I honestly believe that with all your help and support to say "Yes We Can".

We continued the tradition of celebrating St Patrick's Day this year / on the 9th of April. Our celebrations began with Holy mass offered by our new Vice Parton and Tamil Chaplin. I was deeply encouraged by the turnout. We had nearly a hundred members and well wishers participating. It was a fitting opportunity to welcome our Vice Parton, Rev

Fr Sebanesaratnam It was a great pleasure to meet many of the Patrician Family, young and old, some of whom I met for the first time, and to share information about each other's life and well-being. Two new members from the younger generation

were elected to the Executive Committee. Mr. Julius Ravikumar and Mr Nirmalan Derrick. On a cheerful note, Mr Dylan Constantine came out of semi-retirement to rejoin the executive committee. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing President Dr. Rubakumar and thank him for his for his outstanding efforts in continuing to build the Perpetual Fund and organizing the much needed financial support for various projects with the help of our generous donors. I also thank the outgoing members of the executive committee for their tireless work and dedication to the association and to their Alma Mater.

It is my dream to ensure that this association retains its enviable position as one of the most successful of the St. Patrick's Old Boys Associations spread all over the in the world. Our Alma Mater needs our help to rebuild itself from the savage destruction during the war years. In my reckoning there are about 200-300 Patricians living in the United Kingdom who haven't still joined us. I intend to direct our efforts during my tenure to bring them into the fold and I extend a warm welcome to them to join the association and take the opportunity to repay their Alma Mater for all that they have received . It is my strong belief that it

is the members who make the Alumni association stronger and better. We will also be concentrating on recruiting Associate members, from the second and/ third generation Lankans whose fathers and grandfathers were products of St Patrick's College. I welcome all those new members who have joined us and invite them to play their part in all our activities. We are a long way from our perpetual fund target of £250,000. To achieve this colossal target I plead for your help and support both financially and in any other way you could support us. Many of you may wish to contribute new and inspirational ideas to raise funds. Please do not hold them back. Please tell us about it. Novel ideas are most welcome. Let there be no doubt of the enormity of the task that lies ahead. Let us also share the confidence that *together* we CAN DO IT. I am certain that I can count on your support and the Patrician spirit to ensure that St. Patrick's College would continue to play a vital role in the education of the youth of our homeland.

In June this year we lost one of the Old Boys Rev Fr. Alfred Alexander SSS former superior and founder of Cenacle of the Divine Healer in Sillalai. Our Vice patron Fr. Eugene Francis left for Sri Lanka and was replaced by

another Patrician Fr. Sebanesaratnam, we warmly welcome him to the UK and as our chaplain.

Bergen SPC OBA organised the Global Reunion between 27th July 2011 and 30th July 2011. Many Patricians from all over the world attended this event and a big thank you to President Bernardshaw and his energetic executive members for organising this event and giving us a wonderful opportunity to meet our old friends recount old times relish that true Patrician spirit.

I was invited as the chief guest at the Kalai Nila on 4th September 2011 organised by St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA France, which was attended by many Patricians. Congratulations to President Gerard Francis and his executive committee members for organising this wonderful cultural event.

Once again, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I extend a cordial invitation to all members to attend our Christmas Dinner Dance on the 10th December 2011. I hope you all will join us on this day and make it another memorable event to keep in your memory bank for life.

I would like to wish all our members their families and our ever loyal supporters a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. May we be filled with the blessings of Infant Jesus throughout the coming Year.

May God bless you all.

Joe Constantine
President

News from the Rector...

Under the patronage of India - Sri Lanka Foundation, a Student Exchange Programme was arranged between St. Francis de Sales in New Delhi and St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. This exchange programme was planned on Educational, Sports and Cultural aspects. The Rector, Mr. Bertie Bannister (Teacher) and Ten students in Grade 9 (Under 15 age group) went to New Delhi on the invitation of the Principal of St. Francis De Sales senior secondary school in Janakpuri, New Delhi They spent 3 days at school participating in classroom learning activities, cultural programme and soccer matches.

A new Cafeteria is blessed open at the College for the use of the Staff, Students and the general public. Half of the expenses were donated by the Alumni Ass Ontario, Canada. Dr. Regi Solomon senior member of Jaffna OBA was the main Guest at the opening function....

