

Gonzaga Union

Newsletter Autumn 2008

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Green & White Dinner 2008

2008 Annual Dinner

This year's black tie Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 3rd October in the school. As always, it is a pleasure to hear from past pupils and, hot on the heels of last year's excellent address from Jim O'Callaghan, the Union is particularly delighted that past pupil and Chief Executive of TV3, David McRedmond of the class of 1980 will speak at the dinner.

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It is always a very encouraging start to our year when our first event, the Green & White Dinner held in the Conrad Hotel on Friday 9th February was full to capacity. So many enthusiastic parents, past pupils, teachers and guests join us



each year for a truly excellent night. The new first year students attended in large numbers. Six tables were filled with sixth year parents



who, for many of them, now old familiar faces, this would be the last year they will attend.

Thanks to all of them who attended during their six years and to all who came along on the night to make it a great success



Guests were welcomed to the reception by the very enjoyable musical talents of current students from the school who played classical pieces under the guidance of Rosemary O'Brien

Gonzaga Union Student Award

This year's Gonzaga Union Achievement Award went to Killian Donovan who won a silver medal in the World Science Competition. In his new role as Headmaster, Kevin Whirby presented Killian with his award.

Our MC for the evening was RTEs Sean O'Rourke who helped enormously to keep us amateurs to our very busy running order for the night.



Fr. Peter McVerry Trust

Continuing our support of the Peter McVerry Trust, over €50,000 was raised through the Green & White auction, generous sponsors and donations made from parents and past pupils. Special thanks to the Green & White Committee for their dedication and hard work, which is reflected in the amount raised.

Fr. Peter Mc Verry Trust, providing support to homeless boys



Golf classic 2008

Golf enthusiasts enjoyed a great day in the Castle Golf Club. A full time sheet and good weather brought out the high spirits in everyone. The evening rounded off with prize giving and the following past pupils/guests were presented with their trophies and prizes

- Appleby Cup Singles**
- 1st** Robert Becker
 - 2nd** David Moran
 - 3rd** Jack Carney



- Kenilworth Cup Team**
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Simon Ensor | 2nd Charlie O'Brien |
| Rod Ensor | Hugh Brennan |
| Padraic O'Connor | Paul Kinney |

Front Nine Lorna Fitzgerald **Back Nine** Conor Larkin **Guest Winner** Padraic O'Connor



Business Lunch 2008

Paul Drury, Editor of the Daily Mail was guest speaker at the Union's Business Lunch held in the Kildare Street and University Club.

Giving us an interesting insight into the world of newspaper life. Long days and even longer nights with the odd glass or two of champagne! A hard head and



and

plenty of stamina are definitely two of the qualities needed to be a member of that inside group. His enjoyment and enthusiasm for his job was evident in this very changing world. €1,350 was raised for the charity Bring Them home. once again to all of you who attended.



Past v Present

Time waits for no man and this year was no exceptionor was it? Time stood still this year on the front lawn (where nobody dares walk) when the Past Vs Present cricket match took place in early May. The young guns relished the opportunity to have a go at the old guard nearly as much as the past enjoyed taking them to school all over again. This year the Past managed to stem the young tyros 'onslaught in hard fought battles on the crease and on the court winning in the tennis and the cricket.

Alas the dominance did not follow through to the afternoon session on the pitch, and with considerable ease the present took home the silverware in the tag rugby and soccer matches, youthful pace and power winning out over the more methodical approach.



Family Day

The little school cottage turned into a temporary Montessori as Past Pupils were encouraged to come to the Family /Sports Day.

Jumping castles were in full flow as the older brothers raced in the 50 meter dash. Others were more content with an ice cream. Family Day again attracted more enthusiasm from parents and children and was a fitting way to end a busy week for Union events.

Annual Dinner 2007

It was great to be able to return once again to the school for the 2007 Annual Dinner. Although a somewhat smaller dining area due to the start of the building and renovation of the school the atmosphere was of 'badly behaved students' !!!

Guest speaker, Jim O' Callaghan ,a past pupil from the class of 1986 and relatively recent entrant to the world of Irish politics, gave us an insightful view of the world of politics.



Tribute to Fr. Joe Brennan SJ

Friday 29th February Green & White Dinner 2008



Tonight our Social Justice award goes to a man born into a large Dublin family some 80 years ago next November.

Father Joseph Brennan, or Joe as he is better known, was born into a family of 11 children whose parents were the late Ita and Joseph Brennan. By any yardstick Joe Brennan is a good man. Many would say a remarkable man. A man who lives his vocation every day in the service of others. A humble person who consistently strives to do his best by his fellow man.

It is perhaps no surprise that Joe has so far dedicated over 40 years of his life to being a terrific teacher given that both his grandfathers were members of that august profession.

His paternal grandfather, the late Charles Brennan and who hailed from Cahirciveen in County Kerry was a founding member of

the INTO, and his maternal grandfather wrote the authoritative arithmetic book used in nineteenth century Irish schools. In a teaching career spanning over 40 years Joe has taught in Clongowes, Belvedere, Mungret and Gonzaga.

In terms of the history of Gonzaga, it could be said that Joe has been **the** link between the first generation and second generation of the school. Joe lived in the community and worked closely with the late Father's Edmund Keane and Billy Lee from the first generation, and his influential presence in the school over the last third of a century, has helped preserve the school's ethos and culture, keeping Christianity inside the gates and the worst excesses of the Celtic Tiger outside the gates.

Joe's own family have an uninterrupted link with Gonzaga going back over 50 years, which commenced back in September 1957 when the first of Joe's nephews, Young Joe, who is present with us tonight, entered Preparatory 1, at the fragile age of 8. The Brennan family's emotional link to the school is made all the deeper by the sudden tragic death at the age of 16 of Joe's nephew Michael, when

playing for the Senior Cup Team in Gonzaga on a Wednesday afternoon in January 1973. Mick, as he was known to the legion of his friends, was an all-round sportsman who excelled at tennis and was **the** Gonzaga rugby player of his generation.

It was not until September of the following year in 1974, that Joe himself joined the Gonzaga community as a history and religious knowledge teacher. It wasn't an easy time to join Gonzaga as a teacher. In Joe's first history class for 6th year that year, he was faced with a young Mark FitzGerald a 6th Year boy, in the company of a then recent past pupil - Michael McDowell. Joe did a remarkable job with these two boys. Firstly, in history that year he managed to help Mark achieve 50% of his total points in the Leaving Certificate in that subject, and secondly, not longer after, he persuaded his dear niece Niamh, to take the rather



bumptious Mr. McDowell off the shelf!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Father