



CATENIAN
BURSARY FUND

To Directors, Provincial Charity Officers (for forwarding to Circle Charity Officers) to include in their next report –

The Hybrid ONLINE/ZOOM meeting took place on 14 January 2025

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers as usual for this hybrid meeting. Kevin Campbell (Association Secretary), Andy Smith, and Jean Harkin had sent their apologies due to prior commitments.

Mary Taylor, Charles Boulton, Sébastien Moerman and Habib Karim joined by ZOOM; Graham Green, Kevin McKenna, Karol Grabowski, Jayne Hunt, Janet Harris and Gill Board were present at the office in Coventry.

HCPT

The meeting began with a presentation from the new Chief Executive of HCPT, Tricia McFarlane, and George Overton (Head of Fundraising and Communications at HCPT). Tricia thanked the Bursary Fund and the Catenians for all their support over many years and George shared some memorable images showing young people undertaking HCPT pilgrimages to Lourdes. He emphasised the joint emphasis on faith and fun, especially at Hosanna House in the Pyrenees. Tricia made clear that our donations have an enormous impact on the young people particularly those who face financial challenges. Tricia then outlined her role in the organisation and some of the challenges that she has to face in the next two years. Next year is the 75th Anniversary of HCPT's foundation and there will be a number of local and national celebrations to mark this – keep your eyes open across Provinces!

An interesting proposition that might appeal to Circles is that Hosanna House can be booked by groups for holidays in the south of France and/or for access to Lourdes. Please pass this to Provincial Presidents and Circle Presidents who may wish to consider the possibility of a Circle or Provincial trip.

Trustees were pleased to report that since the start of this financial year about 150 young people have been in receipt of Bursary Fund grants to attend HCPT pilgrimages.

Secretary's Report

The Annual Report for the Charity Commission has been submitted.

The Trustees are still considering the viability of setting up a fund to support a Scottish student through the only remaining Catholic institution (The St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher

Education) which could mirror the Terence Graham Fund that offers an experience to a student from St Mary's Twickenham. This is at an early stage but is mentioned here in case Charity Officers and Directors know of a potential legacy that might be used (the original Terence Graham Fund assets came from a generous legacy given by a deceased Leicester 53 brother).

A number of informal requests were received by Jayne and after due consideration these were declined on the grounds that none of them fitted the guidelines laid out for Bursary Fund awards.

Lourdes and Individual Projects Applications

A number of Individual Project Awards have been adjudicated recently, many of these for Cardoner projects with the Jesuit community in Australia who are organizing projects in South-East Asia; a small number of UK applications have also been received including some who intend working with NET Ministries which carries out evangelising work with young people. IPA requests appear to be steady compared to last year.

Further adjudications have been made for Lourdes pilgrimages, mainly for Easter departure diocesan groups and for a selection of HCPT pilgrimages. Currently there are about 100 Lourdes awards to be adjudicated. The bulk of Lourdes applications has yet to surface as these arrive for July pilgrimages undertaken by dioceses.

Financial report and Investment Portfolio

The balance in our current account was £27786, with about £13000 of that already earmarked for Lourdes awards and a further few thousand pounds for IPA awards. A transfer of funds from CCLA will take place to cover the anticipated expenditure between now and Easter.

Our current assets with CCLA are valued at £572375, which represents a small improvement in the overall gain, but Trustees will continue to monitor performance.

Trustees had a long debate about the need for changing to bank transfer as the norm as fewer young people know what to do with cheques and local bank branches diminish in number. Pros and cons were discussed, and our Chair will draw up a paper for our next meeting.

Overall donations are down compared with 2023-24 but we have now received a legacy from a deceased Liverpool brother.

Flame 25

A small number of Trustees will attend FLAME this year but it is likely to be a lower profile this time because we have been asked not to hand out literature or wristbands (these contributed to the litter whose collection cost the organisers a lot of money in 2023).

The FLAME 25 organisers are insisting that safeguarding rules are strictly adhered to so only Trustees on a pre-agreed list will gain admission.

Website Refresh

Whilst the website has taken on its new form, there are still some early teething issues which remain. Trustees are working with the media company to resolve these.

Terence Graham Award

Unfortunately, the two potential candidates for this award were found to be ineligible when their applications were scrutinised. Trustees have asked St Mary's College to find some new candidates.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 11th 2025 at 11:00 am. This will be a Zoom meeting and GBNC Directors are welcome to join us as observers (requests to the Secretary, please).

Karol Grabowski

Secretary and Trustee

Catenian Bursary Fund