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July 18th 1957


 Visitation Report of CLONTARF.

**COMMUNITY :** Brs. Bruno Doyle (Superior), Cyril Higgins (Sub-Superior), Salesius Foley (Councillor), Raphael Kent (Bursar), Laurence Maloney, Ignatius Goggins, Nicholas Cusack, Alonzo Angus, Conrad Campbell, Camille Mohen.

**OBSERVANCE :** The duties of the Brothers with the boys in this large institution have called for a rearrangement of the daily programme of religious exercises. Particular Examen is held at 12-30 pm followed by dinner; after dinner the normal evening exercises - Visit, Office, Beads. School resumes at 1-45 pm. Night Prayers are said with the boys at 8-30 and the Brothers assemble again at 9-30 for the final prayers and the reading of the points of the next morning's meditation. Spiritual lecture is read at meals, but in each case one Brother reads throughout and takes his meal later.

Fault was found at Visitation with the manner in which the boys wander through those parts of the house that are reserved for the Brothers and the Superior was directed to see that the rule regarding the enclosure is strictly observed. There appears to have been serious violation in this matter in the recent past and boys have been known to enter a Brothers' room, singly and in groups, and to spend considerable time there. There is always a danger of this in an institution of the kind and Brothers in charge of dormitories were told to attend to the needs of the boys outside their rooms or in the places reserved for the purpose (e.g. infirmary). Accusation has not been held regularly and the prescribed long Grace in Latin has been frequently omitted.

Apart from the cases mentioned later there is a commendable spirit of observance in the community, and one must admire the self-sacrifice of the Brothers who spend themselves unstintingly in the service of these neglected boys. All are happy in their work and zealous for the spiritual well-being of their charges.

**PERSONNEL :** The Superior is a very conscientious man with a sound appreciation of all aspects of his heavy assignment at Clontarf. He maintains a good standard of observance in the community and gives an excellent lead himself. The Brothers find him readily approachable, genial and kind, while the boys have a wholesome respect for him. His discipline with the latter is exact without being severe.

Br. Cyril Higgins (Sub-Superior) is an exemplary religious and a loyal lieutenant of the Superior. He seems to be well adapted for institution work, maintains a high standard of discipline and has done much to improve the outlook of the boys by inculcating correct personal habits etc. Their spiritual welfare gives him deep concern.

Br. Salesius Foley is in his fourth year at Clontarf and, like the Sub-Superior, appears to be an excellent man for such work. He is refined and gentlemanly, commands the respect of the boys towards whom he is kind and considerate. His own observance is above reproach.

Br. Raphael Kent is approaching his diamond jubilee, is much improved in health and is still active with the boys in a useful manner - he takes groups of working boys each evening for catechical instruction and at other times helps backward boys with English, Reading etc. His bursaring is done very thoroughly.

Br. Laurence Maloney has stteled down admirably in his new field of labour and is doing excellent work at Victoria Park. He is exact in the observance of Rule and he has been very obliging and self-sacrificing in assisting with out-of-school duties at the institution.

Br. Ignatius Goggins, in charge of Victoria Park, is exemplary in community but appears to lack the "drive" necessary for a successful headmaster. He is advancing in years and made special representations to be permitted to anticipate his trip to Ireland which is due in 1959. His mother who is well advanced into her eighties is in a very enfeebled state of health.

Br. Nicholas Cusack entered the Congregation twenty-five years ago as a co-adjutor Brother but has been called upon from time to time to relieve in school. Now he finds himself engaged full-time in school duties and, although he is content in his present work, he does not relish the prospect of permanent schöbl appointment. He likes institution work and has given willing assistance to the Brothers at Clontarf. He appears to be a very conscientious Brothers, is exact in observance and genial in community.

Br. Alonzo Angus is neither regular nor punctual in attendance at morning exercises. I did not consider his explanation altogether satisfactory. He was also found at fault in permitting boys to enter his bedroom and was given to understand that a serious view is taken of such conduct.

Br. Conrad Campbell has been seven years at Clontarf and is obviously a more contented man than he was at Visitation last year. The lightening of his farm duties etc, made possible by the advent of Br. Alonzo, is largely responsible. His spiritual exercises are more regular and less likely to be interrupted. He is still inclined to be unpunctual, however, and has absented himself from morning prayers rather too frequently.

Br. Camille Mohen is happier in his work than was the case last year. He is a man of serious outlook and sombre exterior, but has a very real influence over the boys who come under his care. His observance and general conduct in community are all that is desired. For years he has suffered from an arthritic condition in his hip and ankle and appears to have avoided medical attention for fear of being rejected for vows if a serious condition were discovered. He was reassured on this matter and told to seek an early examination in the hope of obtaining some relief.

SCHOOL : The Br. Superior deserves great credit for for the fine condition of the school, and especially for the excellent discipline and spirit of work that are found there. The pity is that our other institutions do not place similar emphasis on this aspect of their work.

The Superior is a close and conscientious teacher himself and has insisted that no external activity interfere with the boys' studies. Those who possess sufficient ability are prepared for the Junior Examination, taking a complete technical course in Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing. To date no boy from Clontarf has failed in this examination. Beyond the Junior standard promising boys are sent to Aquinas for the Leaving Certificate, while continuing to reside at Clontarf. Last year one of the three Aquinas Exhibitioners was one of these boys.

The retarded boys, too, are receiving special attention in a class apart from their more advanced and capable companions. Br. Camille Mohen has achieved great things with them, specializing in essential subjects and providing desirable activities and hobbies for their leisure time. Many of these boys have now reached the stage ~~where~~ they might be expected to undertake normal class work.

There are two secular teachers engaged in the Primary School - Messrs. Jackson and Page - and, although both are doing satisfactory work, I consider it most desirable that a Brother be responsible for the doctrinal and moral instruction of the boys. Hence, I recommended that necessary changes be made in the daily time-table to provide for this. All boys in the institution will <sup>now</sup> come under the influence of a Brother for some period of the day.

From time to time the Brothers are worried by outbreaks of immorality amongst the boys. They endeavour to combat such by practical instructions, by exhorting them to a more frequent attendance at Mass and the Sacraments, as well as by careful supervision at all times. The introduction of a suitable sodality seems most desirable as a further aid and the Legion of Mary or the Maria Goretti Sodality have been suggested. The latter has been responsible for much good amongst the boys at Tardun.

The arrangement of classes at Clontarf is as follows :-

Slow-learners.....	31	boys.....	Br. C. Mohen.
Grade VI.....	39	"	.....Mr. J. Jackson.
Grade VII.....	48	"	.....Mr. M. Page.
First Year.....	34	"	.....Br. S. Foley.
Second Year.....	19	"	.....Br. C. Higgins.
Junior.....	13	"	.....Br. Superior.
Sub-Leaving.....	3	"	).....At Aquinas College.
Leaving.....	1	"	
Trainees (Farm etc).....	11	"	
			TOTAL.....199.

Results of examinations (1956) were : Junior Certificate (7); 2nd Year (15); 1st Year (25).

**WORKING-BOYS** : These boys are engaged in various activities in the institution (e.g. farming, bakery, laundry, kitchen) and at the age of sixteen are placed in employment. Generally they possess little aptitude for normal school work. They work under the supervision of a Brothers or lay employee and as far as possible are given a good general training in a variety of occupations.

Each evening during the week they are taken by the Superior (2) or Br. Raphael (3) for religious instruction and training in politeness and correct personal and social habits. Much remains to be done in this respect but the Brothers are tackling the problem in a practical manner and already results are evident.

VICTORIA  
PARK

There has been an increase in numbers over the past twelve months, a trend that will certainly continue in view of the great housing schemes that developing nearby. The boys in the three grades are bright and of average attainments, but one senses a looseness of discipline that is not common in our schools. No great effort seems to be made to insist on quiet, orderly movement in and about the school, untidiness in dress is rather common etc. I consider that Br. Ignatius is not forceful enough to be successful here. His own discipline is weak; he teaches the lowest Class and apparently he feels no confidence in speaking to the boys in public. Br. Laurence, too, although enthusiastic to a fault, is not a close teacher and his control is of the noisy variety.

Br. Ignatius has been commendably persistent in placing the needs of the school before the Parish Priests' Committee and has succeeded in equipping the rooms with essential furnishings - statues, pictures, clocks, radios, maps etc. They have undertaken also to re-surface the playground and to provide cloakroom facilities.

His Grace expressed concern at the prospect of boys from this school not being able to enrol at other Brothers schools on the completion of their primary grades; he indicated that he intends to proceed with the building of further school-rooms to permit classes to continue to the Junior standard.

As at Clontarf, the boys revealed a very satisfactory knowledge of their prayers, Christian Doctrine, Bible History etc. Classes are as follows :

Grade V....38 boys...Br. I. Goggins.

Grade VI...30 " ...Br. V. Cusack.

Grade VII..51 " ...Br. L. Maloney.

TOTAL 119.

PREMISES : Since last Visitation the kitchen, scullery, pantries etc have been modernized and re-equipped. The dining rooms (Brothers', boys' and staff) have also been renovated.

At present Brs. S. Foley and C. Mohan are engaged in work on the old gymnasium - a building that had fallen into disrepair in recent years. When complete it should prove an asset to the institution.

FINANCE : Bank Balance (June 29th).....£3368.

Excess Income , 1956..... £2725.

The community has paid to date £9000 towards Provincial undertakings over the past four years, and the Superior has agreed to forward immediately the remaining £1000 of the Bundoora Levy.

Victoria Park fees (1956) aggregated £820. To date this year £292 has been collected. A slight rise in fees has been suggested and greater care has been advised in collecting them.

*Shaney*