



GONZAGA RECORD

1950 - 1959



Introduction

The compiling of a *Gonzaga Record* for the early decades of the school's existence is a project of the recently created college archive.

No *Record* exists before 1985. Alumni from the early years cannot consult lists of those who attended the school, view photos of their time there, or revisit memories of their contemporaries.

Thanks to the help and collaboration of so many of the Past, the archive has a wealth of photos and documents in its care. Collecting them in a volume of this kind and putting them on line is one way to store them permanently; but it also makes them accessible to view.

A locked room full of dusty documents and yellowing photos will certainly be of use to the historian. Making these materials accessible is of much greater use to those whom they concern.

This volume relating to the 1950s does not claim to be complete. For example, there is no section which recounts the richly varied contribution to life and to others made by the Gonzaga students of this era. There should be. And there are, no doubt, inaccuracies, and many other omissions.

The archive invites you to set the record straight.

Send us your comments and your ideas.
Suggest improvements. Contribute your photos and
your memories of those we have forgotten

A.M.D.G

October 2014

Readers should refer to Fr Bill Lee's two-part history of Gonzaga College in *The Gonzaga Record*, 1985/'86, and also to contributions relating to the early years of the school in *Gonzaga at Sixty*. These volumes are now also on line. See home page.

Contributor should consult the website www.gonzaga.ie/archive for advice on how to communicate with the archive.

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In the beginning . . .



As Fr Lee's history relates, the school developed from the purchase of two Bewley properties on what was known as Sandford Grove. Early photos show the familiar curve of the drive, surrounding the wide lawn, towards the original Community House, known as Sandford Hill, which also served as the first school building.

The date of these photos has not been established, although a note attached to them suggests they may date to 1938.





This pair of undated photos shows the lawn railed and in use as a hayfield





The net (probably for badminton) in this undated photo suggests a date before the school opened.



This photo, however, dated May 1952, must relate to Fr Lee's statement that a tennis court was in place by September 1950. It shows a net to the east of the house, in the space that would accommodate the new school from 1956.

The Community House, formerly Sandford Hill,
May 1952



Activity on the lawn reveals the school's early interest
in cricket.



This undated photo of
students and staff
processing to the
school shows railings
still in place on the
lawn, with its use for
rugby evident in the
background. Posts
were first erected on
October 2nd 1950, with
a second set put in
place in January 1951

The following photos of the Community House are dated September and November 1955. The bottom picture shows the railings still in place around some of the lawn.



Community House, September 1955



November 1955 The open space to the left of the house would begin to be filled in the following year with the first stage of new construction.

Below: a photo also dating to November 1955 is taken from the rear of St Joseph's House (formerly Sandford Grove) which, reconditioned during the summer of 1953, opened as the new home of Gonzaga College on September 7th. To the bottom left of the picture is Sandford Hill, the Community House, in which the Jesuit community and the young school had co-existed for the first three years.





The same, summer

May 1952
This well-known image of Fr Charles O'Connor SJ, first Rector of Gonzaga, shows the lawn in use for cricket and other summer games





Two photos of the so-called Lower House at an unknown date. The lower floors served for a long time as rugby changing rooms and showers, and the upper floor to the left was both classroom and music room until well into the 'seventies. The adjacent cottage was used as a tutorial and counselling room by Fr Joe Veale and Fr Alan Mowbray until the 'eighties, and 'The Cottage' remained a Sixth Year common room for some time.





Early days: an unidentified group by the converted Lower House



School Begins



A Prep School cap, donated by David Fassbender ('64)

The school opened its doors for the first time on September 8th, 1950, with 52 boys on the school roll.



Gonzaga College 1950–1951 the first school photo.

The staff, and original Jesuit Community of Gonzaga College, were (*left to right*) Fr William White SJ, Prefect of Studies; Fr Charles O’Conor SJ, Rector; Fr John Murphy SJ, Minister; and Fr Tim Hamilton SJ.

Of the 52 boys enrolled, only 49 appear above.

The boys formed three classes, called Preparatory I, Preparatory II, and Preparatory III. The names of these first pupils were as follows:

Preparatory I: George A. Brady; Damien Carroll; Anthony Clare; David Coyle; Edward D'Arcy; Brian Davy; Iorhart Delaney; Paul M. Dempsey; Gerald Devitt; Anthony Donovan; Thomas E. Eustace; Denis Feighery; Marcus De Vere Hunt; Kevin Hurson; Brendan Kirby; Dermot McFeely; Myles McWeeney; Christopher Mangan; John Murphy; Raymond O'Kelly; Arthur Plunkett; John Richardson; Denis Robson; Timothy Webb; MacDara Woods; William Harnett.

Preparatory II: Thomas A. Bieler; Owen Brady; David Carton; Fergus Dowling; John Feighery; Michael Fitzgibbon; John Lennon; Geoffrey McEnroe; David Maughan; George Kildare Miley; Brian O'Loughlin; David Owens; David Strahan; Killian Walsh.

Preparatory III: John C. Delaney; David Gallagher; Leonard Little; Jeremiah Liston; Daniel Murphy; Michael O'Donovan; Ronald O'Loughlin; Christopher Robson; Garret Shanley; Brendan Walsh; John Mulhern; Peter O'Connor.

Above: Fr Lee's list of the fifty-two names on the first roll. The surname of the brothers Brian and Raymond O'Loghlen is misspelt.

Prep I 1950-51	Prep II 1951-52	Prep III 1952-53	Prep I 1953-54	Prep II 1954-55	Prep III 1955-56
Brady G.A.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carroll D.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clare A.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coyle E.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D'Arcy E.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Davy B.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delaney I.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dempsey P.M.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Devitt G.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Donovan A.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eustace T.E.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feighery D.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hunt M.D.V.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hurson K.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kirby B.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McFeely D.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McWeeney M.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mangan C.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Murphy J.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Kelly R.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plunkett A.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richardson J.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Robson D.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Webb T.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woods M.D.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harnett W.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The first page of the original school roll-book, recently re-discovered.

The blessing of the new school

The archive recently took possession of a remarkable collection of photos recording the blessing of the new school by His Grace John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin, and the press report of the event in *The Irish Independent*.





The names of those in this reverential pose would be gladly welcomed!



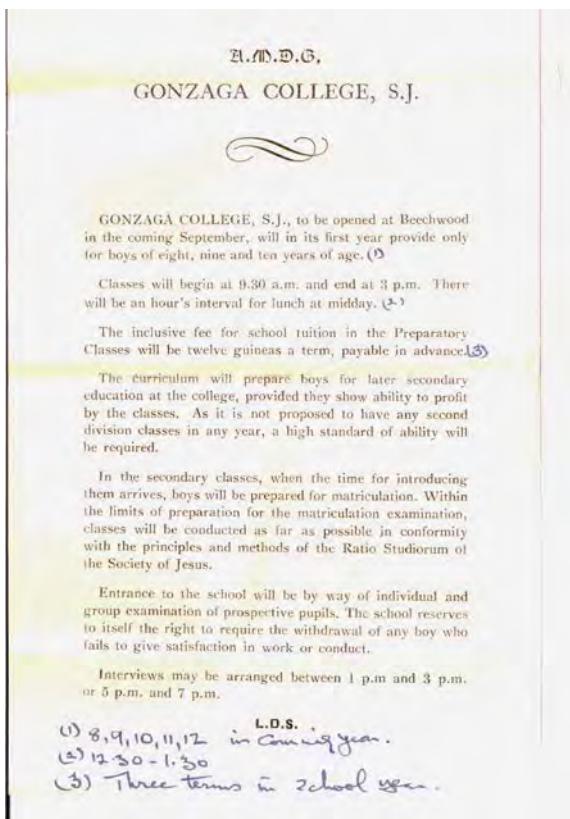


Irish Independent records the day – date unknown to the archive at present.





An early flyer advertised the opening of the new school, listing fees and entry details. Fr O'Connor, in a letter reproduced on the following page, refers to it as an early 'Prospectus'.



This document, lent to the archive by Michael Laffan ('63), is annotated by his father, Dr Joseph Laffan M.D

This letter in response to an application reveals the college's expectations of its student intake, as well as the prejudice apparently current at the time for listing the school's address as 'Ballsbridge'.

Conyngnam College, 80
Ballsbridge,
Dublin.
May 26th 1952

Joseph Laffan, Esq., M.D.,
5 Grosvenor Square,
Rathmines, Dublin

Dear Dr. Laffan,
Many thanks for your
note & inquiries about the
school.

A boy would need to
be in the region of eight years
old to be eligible for entry
here. We don't get everyone
eight on the 1st of Sept. so that
the age of those beginning school
here fluctuates between three
a little over & a little under
eight. The deciding factor is
in fact attainments rather than
precise age.

I am enclosing a copy of the
prospectus drawn for the
opening of the school, two years
ago. It is in consequence
a little out of date but as we
are growing from year to year
we decided to write it with
you. The Secondary
section will be beginning to
produce a new Prospectus -
With much appreciation
of your interest in the school
Yours faithfully in Xr
Charles J. Laffan

(Source: Michael Laffan)

A.M.D.C.



GONZAGA COLLEGE
RANELAGH, . . . DUBLIN

The first prospectus – front cover.

The original school facilities were spartan for both community and students, although classrooms of the kind illustrated hardly differed from the norm at the time.

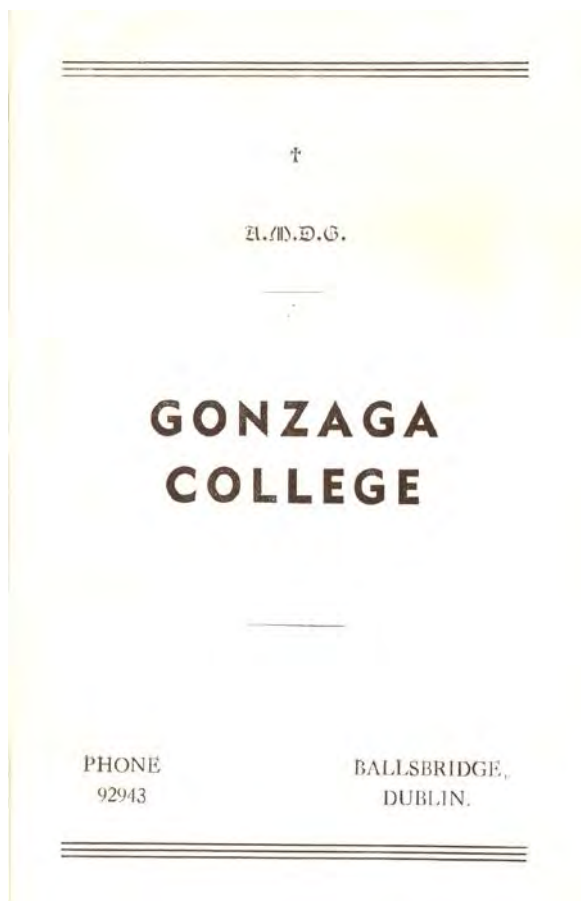


The school had to wait until the 'sixties for a boys' chapel, using the community's domestic chapel in the early days or the facilities of Milltown Park.



Domestic Chapel, 1952

The original set of college rules, with its ornate manuscript-style letter-head and the Ballsbridge address.





A.M.D.G.

COLLEGE RULES

- (1) The College opens at 9.30 a.m. There is an interval for lunch at mid day during which boys may, with the sanction of their parents, get their lunch at home. All boys must be in punctually for the opening of classes at 9.30 and those who go out for lunch must be back punctually for the resumption of classes in the afternoon.
- (2) Between the times of the opening of the College in the morning and closing in the afternoon, no boy may leave the College grounds without the permission of his parents and the leave of the Superior of the College
- (3) In coming to school and returning home, boys must be tidy in their clothes and footwear and must behave in such a way as to be a credit to their homes and their College. If travelling by bus or train they must carefully avoid anything that could be a cause of inconvenience or annoyance to other passengers. They must never enter into conflict of any kind with boys from other schools.
- (4) When a boy has been absent from school, even though it be but for a single day, he must, upon his return, bring with him from home an explanation in writing of his absence, unless his parents have been already in communication with the College in any other way.
- (5) All articles of personal property brought to school which are capable of being marked, must have their owners' names clearly indicated on them, *e.g.*, satchels, articles of clothing, coats, caps, scarves, gloves, drill outfit, football boots, etc.
- (6) Within the College, boys must behave in the classrooms and elsewhere as directed by their masters. In their passage through the house no running on the stairs or passages is permitted; the greatest care must be taken to keep the house tidy and to avoid injury to College property.

- (7) All boys in the College are encouraged to participate in the College games and to play them well. Only games sanctioned by the College may be played during times of recreation.
- (8) In the playgrounds, boys must do as they are told by who ever is in charge of their games. They must not injure trees or shrubs, run across flowerbeds, enter the garden or climb up on or sit upon the wire fence round the playing field. They may not climb trees nor form themselves into opposing gangs. They must be careful too when at recreation, to avoid roughness with each other and may not indulge in any occupation injurious either to their own or any other boys' clothes. Ragging and wrestling are at all times forbidden.
- (9) When leaving class to go to the toilet, boys must not loiter either on the stairs or in the toilet itself. No recreation of whatever kind may ever be taken in the precincts of the toilet or the washbasins which are alongside. The utmost cleanliness and decorum is to be observed in these places at all times.
- (10) Those who take lunch in the school, must do so in the lunch room and nowhere else. All must stand for grace before and after lunch, but lunch itself is to be eaten sitting down. Wrappings, fruit peel and other waste must not be thrown on the lunch room floor, but must be placed in the waste box or in the bin at the back of the house. Milk bottles must be replaced by each one when he is finished, in the milk stand. No one may leave the lunch room to go into the grounds until the grace after lunch has been said.
- (11) Those who come to school on bicycles, must put their bicycles into the yard during school hours. Articles of clothing must not be left attached to bicycles or lying about the bicycle shed. All must dismount before entering the yard gate and no one may get up on his bicycle when departing until he is outside the yard gate. There must never be any cycling in the yard itself.
No one may borrow a bicycle belonging to any other boy, still less use another boy's bicycle without his knowledge or against his will.
- (12) As each one comes in, in the morning he must put his books, cap and coat, etc., in the cloakroom before taking part in any games that may be in progress.

- (13) When breaking up after school, boys should set out promptly for home unless specifically detained for any reason.
- (14) No boy may smoke at any time either upon school premises or on his way to or from school. Boys who have leave from parents or guardians to smoke at home must notify the Superior of the College of this fact.
- (15) In their prayers—and especially at the Rosary recited each day—boys are asked to remember constantly the well being of all in the school and the intentions of the families of all those attending it. At all prayers in the College the utmost reverence is to be observed. Facilities for going to confession for those who wish it, will be made available on all Saturdays, eves of Holidays of Obligation and eves of First Fridays. At other times if boys ever wish to have confession they should mention the fact to one or other of the Fathers who will have arrangements made for them.
- (16) In imitation of the Patron of the College, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, it must be the ambition of all boys in the College to be manly, truthful and pure in thought, speech and action, so that after the example of Our Divine Lord Himself, they may advance from year to year, 'in wisdom and age and grace before God and men.'
- (17) All boys are to understand that as it is the desire of their masters at all times to help them in every way possible, they must on their side do all in their power to co-operate by promoting the utmost possible good will in the school and all its activities.

L.D.S.

School Photos

The archive has a large number of group photos dating to the years before 1976. As the school grew in numbers, whole-school photos became impractical and a photo of the departing Sixth Year was taken, framed and mounted in the chapel corridor. When the *Gonzaga Record* was established it became the practice to photograph each class separately.

Photos of Sixth Year in the `sixties and early `seventies do exist, but they do not correspond with the full year group recorded on the college database because of the large numbers of students who left the school at the end of Fifth Year.

There are no individual class photos for the `fifties, and few of the whole-school photos are convincingly dated. The best that can be done at present is to include photos that clearly or probably belong to this decade, giving a probable date, and wait for readers to help with final identification.

Corrections are urgently required!

The same applies to a number of photos of confirmation groups included here.



Fr Lee's history refers to this as 'the first confirmation class'. It is probably the one to which Leonard Little ('58) refers in his correction of the entry in the anniversary volume '*Gonzaga at Sixty*' which makes the claim for the photo below, for which the archive has the date 'probably 1956'.





An early, undated, confirmation photo



Firmly identified as a photo of the school in summer 1952



Fr O'Connor's presence places this in the early 'fifties



These two photos, recently donated by John Cooke ('62) are certainly among the earliest. Note the locations in which they were taken.





The archive date for this photo is given as 1956 – summer. As the photo below, showing the state of construction of the new hall, is dated November 1956, some correction is needed!





circa 1957



Junior School 1958 (top) and 1959





Probably the Senior School, 1958, top, and 1959



Two more early photos, both undated



Foundation Narratives

A number of these exist, including that of Fr Bill Lee, already mentioned. Fr Noel Barber SJ has written frequently and eloquently on the school's origins, purpose and development. Below is a page from excerpts taken from Louis McRedmond's history of the Irish Jesuits on the foundation of Gonzaga (in the archive collection).

Meanwhile in 1950 the Jesuits had opened their first new school in Ireland in nearly 70 years. This was Gonzaga College, sited on land in the Dublin suburb of Ranelagh immediately adjoining Milltown Park. It represented a valliant effort to revive the *Ratio Studiorum*, the traditional Jesuit educational system, in the mid-twentieth century.

The other colleges, like virtually all Irish secondary schools, were caught in a web of constraints by having to prepare their pupils for the (new) Intermediate and Leaving Certificate exams set by the Department of Education. These were not unduly burdensome, unless candidates were seeking high marks to qualify for scholarships. Schools like Clongowes were able to ignore the Department's curriculum in such subjects as French and English until the year immediately preceding the Intermediate or the Leaving.⁹¹ A solid grounding could thus be provided which gave pupils a richer and more appreciative acquaintance with the subject than if they had been confined to the curriculum alone. This grounding helped them, in a single year before an exam, to cope sufficiently with prescribed texts to secure tolerable, if not always spectacular, results. Nonetheless, although not to the same extent as the 'old Intermediate', during much of a young person's schooldays this system demanded concentration on passing the State exams rather than benefiting from the best education which a school, left to itself, might devise. In particular, it undermined the emphasis favoured under the *Ratio Studiarum* with its stress on speaking and writing, on clarity of thought achieved through a thorough knowledge of languages and especially of classical languages.

Gonzaga would endeavour to restore this noble ideal." * There would be a great emphasis on Languages and on Rhetoric. Greek and Latin would have an honoured place. But English and, hopefully, Irish would be equally important. The sciences would not feature on the curriculum. . . . The

Construction - the first building programme

The inadequacies of the facilities in St Joseph's House (the former Sandford Grove) – no space in which the whole school could be assembled, no gymnasium, no space where plays or concerts could be performed; no library; no chapel adequate to hold the entire school – resulted in the decision to build. The contract for construction of the first phase, which excluded the building of a chapel, was signed with Messrs John Sisk & Son on February 16th 1956, to a design drawn up by architects Devane and Robinson.

Clearing of the site began on February 27th. Fr Lee refers to the felling of 'a noble beech tree', the only tree that had to go, and presumably the one pictured below.



March 7th, 1956

The archive possesses a fine series of photos illustrating the stages of construction, a few of which are included here.

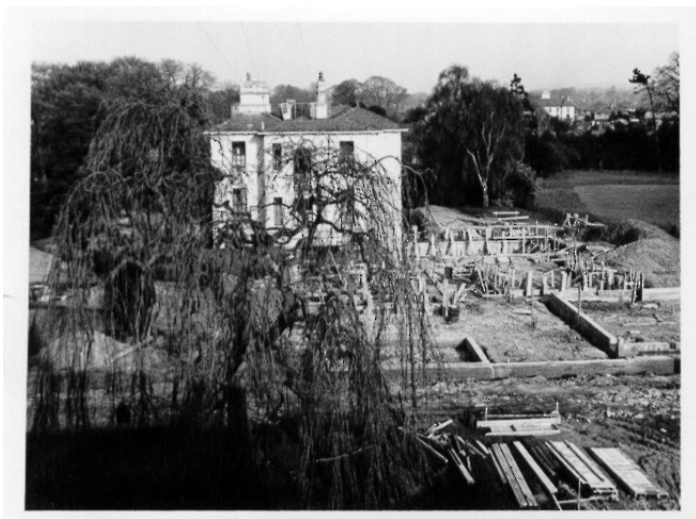


March 8th, 1956





March 13th, 1956





April 20th, 1956 The familiar shape of the hall is visible in outline.

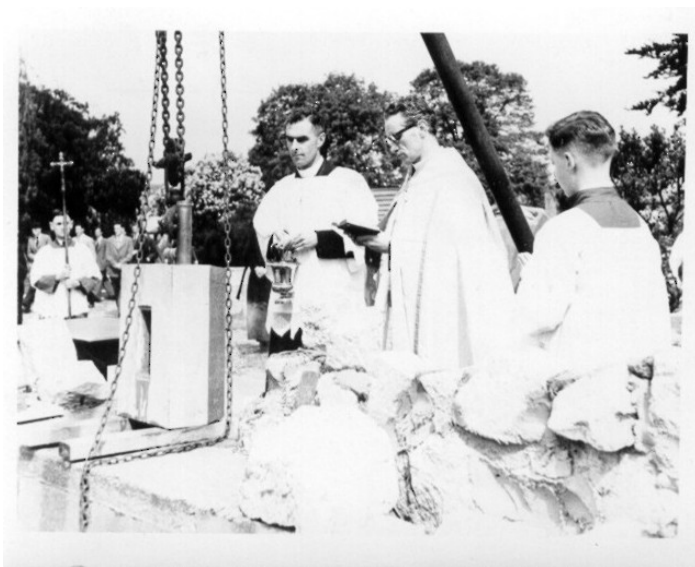


On 24th May, 1956 – Feast of Our Lady of the Wayside, in a particularly ‘propitious’ year – marking the four hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Society – the foundation stone of the new building was laid.

With the whole school in attendance, the stone was lowered into position.



The blessing was performed by Fr Provincial, Fr Michael O’Grady SJ, and the ceremony was attended by the Rector of Milltown, Fr John MacMahon SJ, and by the rectors of Rathfarnham Castle, Belvedere College and Leeson Street, as well as Very Rev. John Hooke, PP, Beechwood Church.





By June, the work on both the characteristic stone facing



and main steel girders is well advanced.





Two fine construction shots taken in September.
The second would seem to involve construction of the
junction with St Joseph's House





The clock tower,
November 14th, 1956

One month later, with scaffolding rising to a vertiginous height.





The Foundation Stone, 24th May 1956

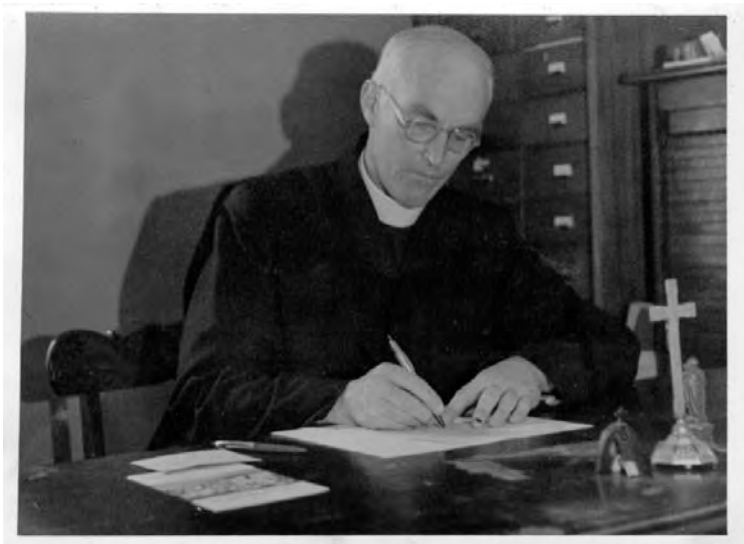
Staff

This section will not attempt detailed profiles of those who taught in and managed the college in the early years. Much has already been written about individual Jesuits and members of the lay staff, often in the pages of the later volumes of the *Gonzaga Record*, and in many cases in the form of significant obituaries of the deceased. Articles by some of the most senior alumni which have been published both in the early *Records* and in *Gonzaga at Sixty* contain warm tributes and affectionate memories.

The purpose of this section is to publish some of the collection of photos in the archive's possession and in particular, where they exist, documents specially relating to individuals.

The omission of some members of staff may arise because they feature more prominently in the later decades.

Fr Charles O'Connor SJ



First Rector of Gonzaga, 1950-1959



A photo taken by Adrian Kenny ('63), probably in the winter of 1958/'59

Fr O'Connor wrote to parents at the ends of each term (later headmasters have generally written a yearly report at the end of each summer.

A collection of his letters reflects some of the very typical concerns common to his successors – uniform, for example, and the gentle prompting of parents as to how post-match celebrations should be conducted. He was in the habit of regularly commenting on sickness among the boys and the effects on attendance, and also on the weather and whether or not it interfered with the schedule of sports.

Some extracts appear below.

The health of the boys during the past term was excellent. As a result the standard of school attendance was very high. The general report on the work of the term was also sound. A good all round standard of application was maintained. For the interest and cooperation of the parents of the boys in securing this result we are sincerely grateful. We are grateful too, for the consideration shown in support of the school games. We were fortunate in securing quite a good variety of matches during the term which provided interest and experience for those engaged even though the laurels of victory may often have gone elsewhere. In connection with the games, a special word of thanks is due to those who in planning parties arranged their programmes so as not to disrupt the games by offering counter attraction on afternoons when games were held.

After many unsuccessful efforts, we succeeded recently in settling upon a college scarf. For the design of the scarf our thanks are due to Signor Volpi. We expect the scarf to be available shortly. The boys will be notified when this occurs. We trust later on to have a college tie also.

Dated January 1954. The letter strikes the very typical Gonzaga note that victory at sport is not the only value. Of considerable interest is the detail recorded elsewhere that Gonzaga teams of this period did not play competitive rugby against Protestant schools. (*See section Sports for details of the first rugby game against Belvedere.*)

GONZAGA COLLEGE,
SANDFORD ROAD,
DUBLIN, Ballsbridge P.D.

Summer 1954?

Dear *Dr & Mrs Laffan,*

Though the interval between Easter and the beginning of the Summer holidays was brief, good work was done in all classes.

The first written Diocesan Religious Knowledge examination was held for Senior II Class shortly after the opening of term.

Owing to the very broken weather which prevailed during the greater part of the term the cricket season was more than ordinarily cramped.

Sports held one afternoon towards the end of term provided pleasant entertainment for all. Prizes won were distributed on the last day of the term.

Hitherto we had been accustomed to distribute prizes for classwork that day. We have all along felt it was an unsatisfactory way of dealing with so important a matter, as prizes then distributed left out of account the results of the Summer term examinations.

Prizes for classwork in order to embrace the results of these examinations will be given at the opening of the Christmas term.

When schools reopen in September we shall have a new class added to the roll and a corresponding increase of new boys. Applications have been so numerous that the list for the foundation class for September 1955 is already closed.

We trust that a school tie will then be available at Messrs. Kelly, Grafton St., also.

Classes for the Christmas term will start on Sept. 7 at 9.30 a.m. School will end that day at 11.00 a.m.

Before disbanding boys were told that they would learn through this letter when photographs ordered by them would be ready. These may be had upon application at the school any day from July 10 - 13 inclusive, or in August.

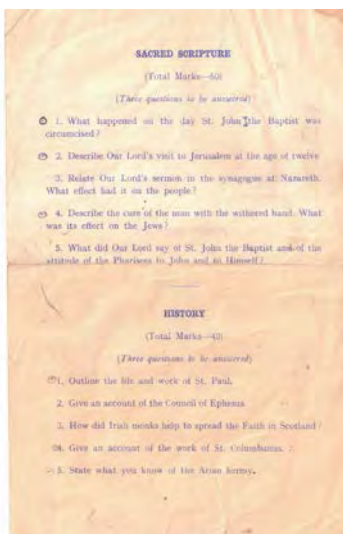
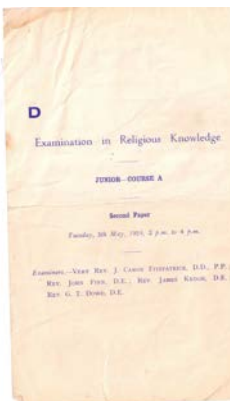
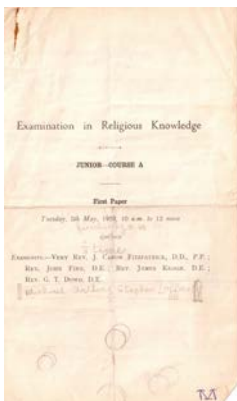
Wishing you and your family a very pleasant vacation,

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Charles O'Connell S.J.

This letter courtesy Michael Laffan ('63)

Below is a sample (1959) of the Diocesan exam in Religion to which Fr O'Connor refers in his letter. Boys sat the two papers in Second Year, each paper lasting two hours. Readers are invited to test their own ability to cope with the questions. (*Papers courtesy Michael Laffan*)



In the matter of boys' parties, there appears to be quite a number of parents with boys in the school who regret the practice that seems to be becoming common of guests at such parties being expected to bring presents to the givers of the parties. This is obviously a delicate matter, and one outside the scope of the school. It may however be worth noting as we pass. It has been suggested that the solution might be found if those in favour of the elimination of presents wrote "No presents" on their invitations when organising parties themselves. It does seem to take something from the overhandedness of hospitality if one expects each guest to come provided with a gift, and in so far may easily be bad training for the young - both givers and receivers. We wish to thank families who throughout the term arranged parties so as not to interfere with Wednesday and Saturday games.

Again – the concern with parties. (*December 1954*)

Fr William White SJ



Prefect of Studies 1950-1965

An informal picture of Fr Bill White taken by Michael Laffan in August 1960



and a still unidentified picture of Fr White making a presentation.



Much has been written about Fr Bill White, both by his former students and by his teaching colleagues. It says much of the man that Fr Paul Andrews SJ, later headmaster of the college, could say of the obituary which he wrote for his confrere that it was ‘probably the best piece of writing that I ever did’; such was the inspiration of its subject. The obituary and two further appreciations by Charles Lysaght (’58) and Philip McDonagh (’70) appear in the *Gonzaga Record* 1988, now searchable online as well as this volume.

Fr John Murphy SJ



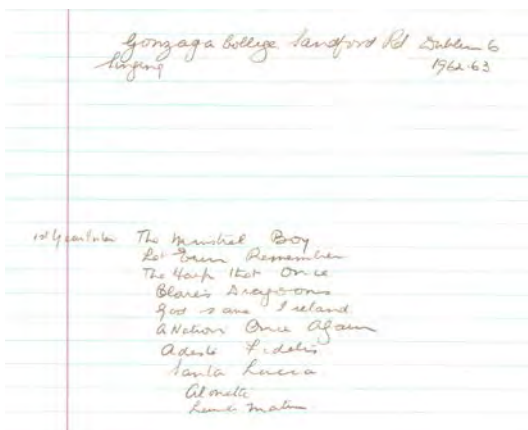
One of the original ‘gang of four’, Fr Murphy took early responsibility for rugby training, claiming a significant victory against Belvedere in Gonzaga’s very first competitive game in 1951. *See Sport.*

Photo: M Laffan,
November 1960

Fr Joe Kavanagh SJ



Music seems to have had a very secondary place in the curriculum of Gonzaga until the 'seventies – the archive would welcome more information. The Department Returns for staff 1962/3 show that, as well as French, he taught music to S.6 and S.4, and singing to S.1. The attached return of syllabus for Singing (First Year, 1962/3) is instructive on Department objectives.





August 1960

Photo: Michael Laffan

The Community History of Gonzaga, a regularly updated chronicle of events in school and community, mentions ‘concerts’ in the early years. The following photos have not been identified. Three of them clearly belong to a date after the construction of the new hall in 1956.





The archive would welcome identification of the events on these pages.





Gonzaga's first professional musician?



Pictured is Oliver Gannon who attended Gonzaga briefly in the 1950s, before his family moved to Canada. His father was a professional pianist.

He is regarded as Canada's most outstanding jazz guitarist. Details of his career can be found at www.jazz.com/encyclopedia.

His name appears in the sports diary of *The Gonzaga Weekly*, as joint winner of the 'U-14 Championship', June 1st 1956. (See section on Sports)

Fr Jack Hutchinson SJ



Fr Jack Hutchinson's period as a teacher of Irish in Gonzaga may have been short at his own wish – his love of Irish perhaps met with an attitude to the language that prevailed in the early Gonzaga. He was much appreciated, however, by those who did not share this attitude and was responsible for the earliest intensive language experience for students – trips to Ballinahowan in the Connemara Gaeltacht (*picture above.*) Fr O'Connor's letter to parents advertising the trip is attached. The last image is of a diary kept by the students chronicling their stay.

Both documents are the gift of Leonard Little (Class of '58)

OWENARA COLLEGE,
SANDPOND ROAD,
BALLINAHOWAN,
DUBLIN.

Dear *Mr. Little,*

As it now seems likely that we shall be able to arrange a fortnight's Irish Course in an Irish speaking district of Connemara for ten of the older boys next Summer, we should be glad to know as soon as possible whether you would like your boy's name included in the group.

The Course will be held at Ballinahowan, a place on the coast about thirty miles outside Galway. It will begin on June 21 and end on July 5. Two priests will accompany the boys. Boys doing the Course will be expected to speak Irish together for the most part while away: there will also be classes.

The charge for the Course will be £11-10-0 each boy. This will cover both cost of accommodation at Ballinahowan for the fortnight and all travelling expenses - from Westland Row to Ballinahowan, and return (with bicycles, if these are brought).

As the number for whom accommodation is available is so limited, preference is being given to boys of the Senior Class.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

R. M. L.

COLLÁSBÓ SONSAGA

BAILE ÁCA CLÁIC.

RÉABRÁ.

Óuasí naaca buadailif be Collásbó Sónsaga den ágab uain niam an dúnna Saotlga do Conamara an an Eil lá be 14 Meitheamh 1964. Coisíos a dárdeabha an. Cúineabha noma an Saotlga a lánait agus a dárdeabha an fáth a Meitheamh an.

Cúineabha an Cúineabha seo le oisile ag na nomaabha Saotlga a fáth an gá meitheamh agus bí gá buadailif p'neabha an a dúnna.

'Stab neo na buadailif a bí an an dúnna Saotlga seo

S. Ó Saotlga;	E. be lreabha;	C. Ó Saotlga;
S. Ó Saotlga;	D. be Cúineabha;	S. Ó Saotlga;
R. Ó Saotlga;	D. Ó Saotlga;	M. Ó Saotlga;
D. Saotlga;	E. Saotlga;	E. Saotlga;

Bí an eab, S. Ó Saotlga agus an eab, P. Ó Saotlga an a dúnna.

Óuasí naaca buadailif be Collásbó Sónsaga den ágab uain niam an dúnna Saotlga do Conamara an an Eil lá be 14 Meitheamh 1964. Coisíos a dárdeabha an. Cúineabha noma an Saotlga a lánait agus a dárdeabha an fáth a Meitheamh an.

Two further pictures of Fr Hutchinson,



with (graduating?) students including Brendan Walsh, Jerry Liston and Chris Robson (who is first on left?),



and with (Mr?) Joe Kelly, SJ in the foreground.

Fr Joe Kelly SJ

Joe Kelly's involvement with rugby is evident from the photo said to be of him with players at Jones's Road in the early 'sixties, below.



The archive regrets that it has little other information about him. In the photo below with, among others, Eoin O'Buachalla ('65), Denis Quilligan and Tony Spollen ('64), he is holding a text of Shakespeare. Did he also coach early cricket?



Fr Edmund Keane SJ



June
1963
*Photo:
Michael
Laffan*

Memoirs of Eddie Keane's forty-year service in Gonzaga abound, and readers might consult the *Record* of 1991 (not yet on line) where tributes were paid to him on his retirement by Gerry Murphy and David Keenahan.

Eddie is remembered by later generations of Gonzagans for his immense contribution to tennis in the college. He was, of course, an all-round sportsman, 'feared by most other Jesuit houses when he captains the Gonzaga golf team', but in the 'fifties he was chiefly responsible for cricket.

Through his hands would have passed David Ensor ('66) the school's first cricket international, and Eddie Lewis ('70) an inter-provincial cricketer (captain, Leinster u-19 side) and captain of the Irish Universities team in the 'seventies. (*See Sport, cricket section for more photos and his own article, 'The Gonzaga that was . . . ' Record 1990*)

An appreciation in *The Irish Times*, 20th June 2000 above the initials A.M. was contributed by Aidan Mathews ('74) and is reprinted in *The Gonzaga Record* 2000.

Fr William Lee SJ



One of the most delightful photos in the archive shows Fr Bill Lee (*left, with Fr Kavanagh*) in the winter of '61/'62, before construction of the Boys' Chapel, carrying who-knows-what piece of scientific apparatus.

Aspersions have been cast on the notion that Gonzaga at first relegated the sciences to a special course entitled, remarkably, 'Gentlemen's Science'. Be that as it may, Bill Lee was President of the Science Teachers' Association in the 'sixties and delivered at least one lecture arguing for the place of science in education.

An obituary appears in the *The Gonzaga Record* 1992

Photo June 1960
Michael Laffan





Mr Sean Byrne,
pictured below with
Cyril Forbes.

Department returns
for staff indicate
that he was
Gonzaga's first
professionally
qualified PT
instructor,
presumably taking
over the role from
Signor Volpi, who
taught 'drill'



Two photos, so far undated, of the school at physical
exercise appear on the following page.

Drill in the 'fifties



Fr Joseph Veale SJ

This very familiar photo of Joe Veale was taken in the early days of the new college library, part of the 1956 construction.



The photo to the left
(courtesy Michael Laffan)
was taken in June 1960

The unique stamp that Fr Veale made on the character of the early Gonzaga has been recorded in a number of places. Many contributions to his memory have been made by students who became his life-long friends. An extract from one (unpublished?) recollection is included below.

Fr Lee's history states that the school had no clearly stated unique philosophy until Joe Veale defined it in what became the prospectus drawn up by him in the '50s, sections of which follow.

GONZAGA COLLEGE

IT is in the nature of a day-school that parents and teachers must work in co-operation. In order to do that, it is fair that parents should be given a clear idea of the ideal we are trying to realise. It is hoped that these pages may help to make our aims and methods clear. If, as will be evident, much of what is written here is true of every Catholic school in every part of the world, it is that we may all, parents and boys and teachers, recall the ideal from time to time.

* * *

Some questions all teachers must ask themselves. What kind of man would I wish to form by the time he is eighteen? How shall we educate a boy so that he may be able to continue to educate himself? How should he be prepared and equipped to take his place in modern Ireland, to be a responsible citizen, to earn his living, and to use his life with something of personal fulfilment and with benefit to others?

A Catholic teacher must ask himself a further question. It will be the vocation of these young men to refuse to conform to the ways of a world that inverts the values of Christ. How shall we enable them, in an affluent society, to live effectively by the teaching which says: Blessed are the poor. Blessed are they that mourn. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice.

CHOICE AND EMPHASIS

A boy cannot learn everything at school: he cannot be taught every skill. There must be some selection and choice. And when the selection and choice have been made, even then there must be a greater stress placed on some subjects, less on others. That selection and emphasis are necessary if his mind is not to be a rag-bag crammed with bits and pieces of unconnected information.

SUBJECTS

He must know the language, history and culture of his own country. Secondly, he must know English. He should also have begun to master at least one Continental language. He must not be ignorant of the general history and geography of the world. Nothing is more evident, in our present circumstances, than the urgent importance of the highest standards and most up-to-date methods and courses in mathematics and science. Finally, the educated man will have studied Latin and Greek, if he is able, for there is no understanding of the culture of Europe apart from the literature of Greece and Rome.

SKILLS

Already it is clear from this listing of subjects that almost every one has another aspect, the aspect of skill. Mathematics, for example, is a tool subject and the aim of the mathematics teacher is to ensure that the student can use the tool with accuracy and ease. It is of little value to know about the grammar or literature of a modern language if the student cannot use the language with some skill. The value of learning Latin and Greek may well be questioned if a boy cannot eventually read the classics with enjoyment and some ease.

SCIENCE

No secondary school can make a boy a scientist. That is the proper work of a university. But whatever our vocation may be, we all need to know a defined amount of the content of science. We need to know its method, its reverence for the carefully observed and accurately stated fact, what the scientist does with his facts when he has established them, how he reasons from facts to general laws. Above all, it is necessary to know the limits of the scientist's aims and methods, that he is incompetent to deal with questions of philosophy or to dogmatize upon matters which are outside the scope of positive science. Finally, one of the functions of our science course is to enable a boy to judge whether he has the taste and ability to become a scientist.

READING

At eighteen a boy cannot know everything. He can be given enough intellectual curiosity to want to know more. He can be taught where to find information for himself, how to find it quickly, accurately, and with respect for the truth. That is one of the functions of the school library and parents can help us here more than elsewhere by encouraging their sons to value books and to enjoy reading. Here we are very dependent on your co-operation.

THE SIXTH YEAR

We do not prepare for the Intermediate or Leaving Certificate examinations and we are therefore free to plan our course as we think best. We could not escape the need for Matriculation, but in order that its limited scope should not dictate the last two years of a boy's schooling, we decided to dispose of it at the end of his fifth senior year, leaving us a final year to shape as we wished.

NOT SPECIALIZATION . . .

First, the Sixth Year is conceived as a bridge to university studies. The student is expected to work with more freedom from detailed day to day prescription. He must accustom himself to work with independence under our guidance, so that he may be able to study on his own when he begins his professional course. He should at this stage have roughly decided what line his future career will take: whether in science, engineering, accountancy, or in the sphere of languages, literature, law. He is given an opportunity of limited specialization, of study in depth, in one path or the other. If he shows promise, a combination of ability and character, we prepare him for a university entrance scholarship.

One necessary condition for a successful Sixth Year is this, that a boy should undertake to work extremely hard without the artificial stimulus of a public examination at the end.

. . . BUT ENLARGEMENT OF MIND

At the same time the year is designed to be one in which he can allow his mind to range over a wide field of intellectual interests, to read widely and hard, to think out for himself where he stands and where he is going, to get his bearings, to think out carefully those convictions and intellectual principles which he will need in order to manage the business of living.

It would be frivolous to pretend that any young man can ignore the importance of earning his daily bread. But once that has been said, it is also necessary to say that there are more important things.

WORK AND LEISURE

A man is not only a bread-winner. He is also a husband and a father of a family, a citizen, a human being. In taking responsibility he will find a chief source of his growth in manhood; and in work, truly

The Sixth Year ‘experiment’ eventually fell victim to the removal of the possibility of accumulating points for Leaving Certificate subjects over a number of successive years, and to the accelerating points-race for Third Level entry.

Joe Veale’s commitment to rhetoric, however, as witnessed in his influential article ‘Men Speechless’ (*Studies* 1957), and his foundation of An Comhdháil, the college debating society in 1955, have left an enduring legacy of outstanding debaters in the College.

Earl Minute Books have sadly gone astray but the archive has discovered a copy of the Standing Orders of An Comhdháil.



*Photo to right
courtesy
Charles Lysaght*



Standing Orders

AN COMHDHAIL

Rules of Procedure at Ordinary Meetings.

Rule 1. Mode of Address

- (a) Members shall stand and be within sight of the chairman when addressing the House.
- (b) In order to address the society upon any motion or for any other purpose, a member must preface his remarks with the words "Mr President" or "A Cheann Chomhairle" if the President be in the chair, "Mr Auditor" if the Auditor be in the chair, and "Mr Chairman" if any other person be in the chair. He will address others present in accordance with normal practice.

Rule 2. Written Speech

No member shall read a written speech, unless he has been ordered to read a paper to the House. In case of dispute, the chairman shall decide whether any notes used by a speaker constitute a written speech.

Rule 3. Moving of Motions

- (a) All motions and amendments must be proposed and seconded, except formal and privileged motions, and shall be handed in writing to the chairman.
- (b) Motions moved from the chair do not require a seconder.

Rule 4. Irrelevancy or Repetition.

* Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion. The chairman may call the attention of the meeting to continuous irrelevance or tedious repetition on the part of a member and may direct him to continue his speech.

Rule 5. Matter of Order.

A matter of order is one concerned with an alleged violation of the constitution of the society or with some point of procedure. A member rising on a matter of order shall confine his remarks solely thereto.

Rule 6. Point of Order

- (a) On a matter of order suddenly arising, any member may speak provided he does so immediately, and prefaces his remarks by stating that he rises on a "point of order".
- (b) While the chairman is addressing the meeting, he shall not be interrupted on a "point of order". A "point of order" may be made immediately after he has ceased to address the meeting, and in such cases, any relevant ruling made by him during the course of his address shall be deemed to be suspended until such "points of order" shall have been dealt with.

Rule 7. No Second Speech

No member may speak twice on the same motion, except the leaders of teams in debates, who may sum up briefly at the close of a debate and may not introduce new material to the debate. The chairman may invite any speaker to speak a second time.

Standing Orders: An Comhdháil, 1955

Extracts from impressions written by Ross Geoghegan ('60) on the day Joe Veale died in 2002. A shorter version appeared as an appreciation in *The Irish Times*. This copy of the script was kindly donated to the archive by its author.

In a sense Joe Veale only arrived in the world at the age of thirty three. Son of a quiet civil servant and a strong mother, he had finished school at Synge Street and had entered the Jesuits at seventeen. His degree at UCD was in English - he was a contemporary of Benedict Kiely - but as a clerical student in those days his contact with such young literati must have been limited. He taught for three years in the junior school at Belvedere and followed the usual Jesuit studies.

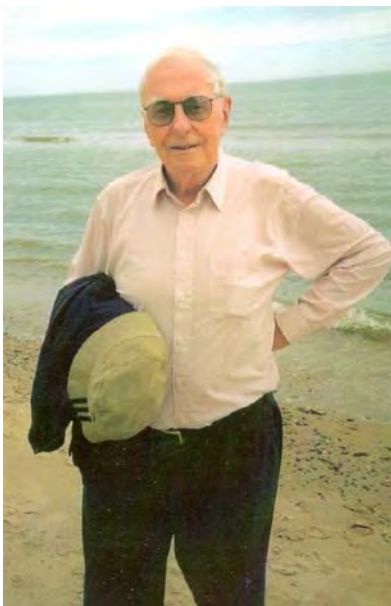
Joe's first assignment as a priest was to teach English and Religious Knowledge at Gonzaga, then a new school where the oldest boys were fourteen (a class was being added each year at the bottom as these "big boys" grew up). Gonzaga was being touted as an experiment in education. It was to follow a modern version of the old Jesuit *ratio studiorum*. The school would emphasize Latin and Greek over science, and the boys would take the UCD matriculation in their Fifth Year, thus freeing them for more liberal studies in their Sixth. They would not sit for the Leaving Certificate. These were the general ideas of its founder, Fr. Charles O'Connor. But when Joe arrived he found very little in the way of an educational philosophy behind the plan. It fell largely to him to fill the vacuum.

In his view the main purpose of education was to make people think and ask questions, even dangerous questions, about why things are as they are, how things might be made better, who benefits from the present set-up and who does not. And along with this was the need to be articulate, so that education was also about learning to speak well and write well. Gonzaga was a relatively expensive school and many of the boys came from well-to-do families. While he did not usually challenge the culture and complacency of upper middle class Dublin explicitly, his encouragement of formal and informal debate challenged the boys to think about their own privileged place in society. He was in fact trying to instill broader ambitions than successful entry into professional clubby Dublin life. He wanted these boys to make a difference, to become

(continued on following page)

leaders who would create a better and more just society. Thus he was seen by critics as a subversive teacher. Not all parents liked what he was doing, especially when a few impressionable boys took his ideas overboard. And indeed not all boys liked it. But in that period Joe acquired a cadre of friends among the boys who would remain his friends for life.

Joe always claimed that he saw little difference between English class and Religious Knowledge class. The latter was interpreted broadly: besides the entirely orthodox official curriculum, he introduced sociology and philosophy at a level which was a challenge to teenagers. Since there were no textbooks for this he wrote his own on densely typed foolscap handouts. In English, he was stern, sometimes almost harsh, in his criticisms of the boys' school essays. He supplemented the official curriculum with authors he admired. In the late fifties he was introducing the older boys to Chaucer, Hopkins and T. S. Eliot, had them read Cardinal Newman on education, V. S. Pritchett and F. R. Leavis on style. At the onset of the Lemass period he believed that economics was THE subject to study. J. K. Galbraith's *The Affluent Society*, had just come out and Joe was recommending it to any boys with the stamina to read it. This had lasting effect in certain cases.



The last picture of Joe Veale, taken almost immediately prior to his collapse and death.

Footnote: Tony Clare, in a piece written for The Sunday Independent, July 23rd 2000, quotes extracts from a quite remarkable article on the subject of clerical child abuse contributed by Joe Veale to Doctrine and Life, May/June 2000

There is an appropriate addendum to references to An Comhdháil in its early days – readers should consult *Gonzaga at Sixty*, pp. 52/3, for Charles Lysaght’s details of early debates: Macdara Woods’ (’58) show stealing contribution to the motion ‘That the works of Enid Blyton are pernicious’ in the society’s very first debate; John (later Fr John) Feighery (’59) contesting that corporal punishment was an admission of failure on the part of the teacher; and George Kildare Miley (’59) being one of only two debaters with the courage to oppose from the floor the philosophy that was basic to the Gonzaga experiment.

If only the Minute Books could be rediscovered!

---oOo---

Fr Tim Hamilton SJ



Sadly, this grainy inset from the first school photograph is the only certain image of Fr Hamilton, unless he could possibly be identified as the priest painting the lines for the sports day track on a later page.

He survives, however, in the college library, by virtue of his signature on the fly-leaf of the library’s copy of Liddell and Scott’s Greek lexicon.

Fr Stephen Redmond SJ



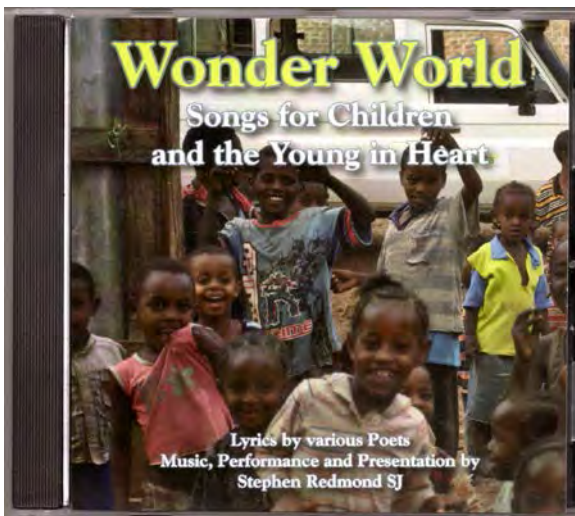
Currently (2014) the longest surviving member of Gonzaga's early staff, he was delighted, if characteristically abashed, when presented with this photo (August 1960, Michael Laffan) of his younger self.

For the archive, he generously wrote a memoir of his days teaching history,

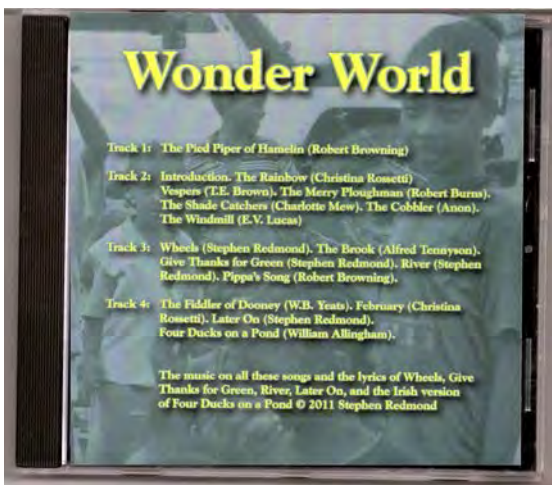
English and RE in the school, and writes humorously of his responsibility coaching rugby to prep boys. One well-known member of the Fine Gael party has entered the annals as the player absent from the pitch and found in the ditch gathering flowers.

A gifted musician, he still winces at references to his composition *Glen na Smól* which, sung by Anna McGoldrick, was a finalist in the 1968 National Song Contest. It is still available, on a CD entitled 'The Spirit of Ireland. He, and the song, are the subjects of an article by Fr Paul Andrews SJ in *The Messenger* of January 2009 (perhaps a reprint?) entitled *Questions of Conscience*.

He has kindly donated to the archive a CD recording of his own songs (sung by himself) and musical settings, including a setting of *The Pied Piper of Hamlyn*.



The cover and reverse of Fr Redmond's collection of songs and compositions.



Some photos of other Jesuits who taught in Gonzaga in the 'fifties, but about whom the archive is currently short of information or about whose careers there is information more relevant to later decades, now follow. In several cases the photos were provided, once again, by Michael Laffan.

Readers should inform the archive of important omissions, where they observe them!



Fr John Hughes SJ,
Rector of Gonzaga 1959-1965
While Rector, he oversaw the
completion of the new Boys'
Chapel



Fr Leahy SJ



Fr Meagher SJ

Fr Kevin Laheen SJ



Tony Ensor ('68), Ireland rugby international, recalls three mentors from the earliest days – Fr Harry Lawlor, Fr Joe Kelly and Fr Kevin Laheen. Of the latter two as referees, he says that their interpretation of the rules was rather ad hoc, with parents on occasions running onto

the pitch to remonstrate. They would, wouldn't they! Kevin Laheen was '*magister ludi*' until succeeded by Fr Noel Barber in 1962

Fr Colm Lavelle SJ



Fr Austin McCurtain SJ



Photo: Michael Laffan – June 1963

Of this man, who left a distinct mark on those who studied literature under him, more will be added in a subsequent volume of *The Gonzaga Record* dealing with the 1960s, and in particular with his contribution to the early drama of the college.

Of the early Lay Staff, (with the exception of **Sgr Edmundo Volpi**), the careers of **Cathal O’Gara**, **Ray Kearns** and **John Wilson** extend well into the ‘seventies and will be treated of in later volumes.

Sgr Volpi, from a newspaper article, c. 1962





John Wilson, May 1963



Cathal O'Gara (right) and
Ray Kearns, June 1963



Students

There is a considerable collection of photos from the early days, some already published, but in many cases the occasion of the photo and the identities of the individuals remain unrecorded. It is also possible that some photos included here have a more appropriate place in the 1960s volume.

This is especially true of the earliest sports photos.

One aim of this publication is to include as many of these as possible.. There are some delightful pictures among them which should not lie unseen and gathering dust. Until such time as there exists a suitable location for the archive which people can visit and view its contents, putting them together in the format of a *Gonzaga Record* and online makes them accessible to the people they represent, and for whom they bring back memories.

There is another, even more urgent reason for publishing these photos: establishing their identity, so that, finally, they can be captioned.

This volume can be adapted – pages added, captions inserted, history corrected.

Let's put the record straight.

The website gives you all the advice you need on how this can be done.

-ooOoo-



‘Corporation Men’ – for an explanation, see David Fassbender’s article in *Gonzaga at Sixty*.





A group outside the Lower House after its conversion for school use, and a class in progress inside. When the conversion took place, and how extensively it was used, is not recorded so far.





Early bike-shed days . . .



and 2010-style



Games . . .



of different types.





School's out . . .



and 2010-style





School assemblies.

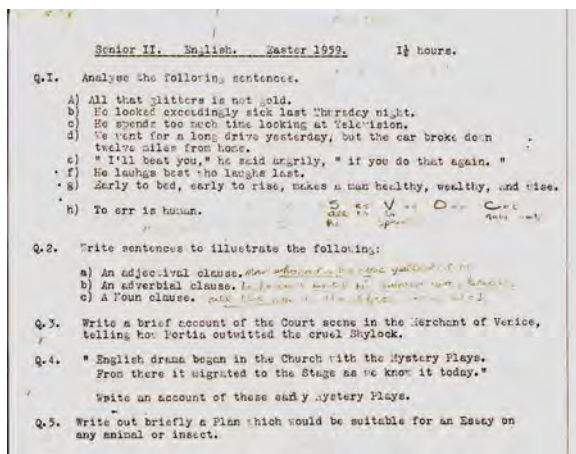


Studies



Among the documents presented to the archive there are some samples of exam papers and exercises dating from the 'fifties, instructive of what was expected of students at the time.

The attached conventions of form in English is of considerable interest in a texting generation.



CONVENTIONS

RE 5.

- (1) The title is given in CAPITALS. The first page of the essay is not numbered. Arabic numerals are used thereafter.
- (2) The first paragraph of the essay is not indented.
- (3) The lines of the essay are double-spaced. Quoted material, when off-set, is single-spaced. See Notes (3) and (8); (12) and (13), below.
- (4) The second and succeeding paragraphs are indented (5 spaces on the typewriter).
- (5) Quotations are normally introduced by a colon.
- (6) A verse quotation of more than one line is set off from the main body of the essay. It is centred on the page; on a typewriter, begin three spaces to the right of the paragraph indentation. The quotation is single-spaced. It is not enclosed in quotation marks. The lines can be identified by a footnote or (as here) in a parenthesis placed to the right of the final line quoted:

O chestnut tree, great rooted blossomer,
Are you the leaf, the blossom of the bole?

(M.B. Yeats, "Among School Children", 53-54)

- (7) The title of a poem is enclosed in quotation marks.
- (8) A prose quotation of three lines or more is set off from the essay proper but, unlike the verse quotation, is given the same left-hand margin as the main text. It is single-spaced. Quotation marks are not used. The quotation is identified by a footnote.
- (9) If one or more words are omitted from a quotation (prose or verse), the omission is recognized by an ellipsis (3 dots). If the ellipsis follows a completed sentence, the three dots will be preceded by a space and a period:
of health and life. ... We find the same
If the ellipsis includes the latter part of a sentence, the three dots will be followed by a period:
the same opposition... .
- (10) The title of a published work (play, novel, collection of poems) is italicized. E.g. Dr Caroline Spurgeon, in her discussion of the imagery of *Macbeth*, says ...
- (11) Any word or words inserted by the writer of the essay within a quotation (for example, to preserve grammatical sense) are enclosed in brackets. Use square brackets if your typewriter provides them.
- (12) A prose quotation occupying less than three lines is normally incorporated in the text and enclosed by quotation marks. The quotation is identified by a footnote. A sentence which incorporates a quotation (prose or verse) must remain a grammatical sentence.
- (13) A verse quotation of less than two complete lines may be incorporated in the text, in which case it is enclosed in quotation marks. A virgule (/) is inserted to mark the end of the poetic line. All capitals in the original are retained. The quotation can be identified in a parenthesis:
"Thou sure and firm-set earth/ Hear not my steps" (II, 1, 56-57).
- (14) A line drawn across the page conveniently separates the body of the text from the footnotes. Footnotes can be placed at the bottom of the page or, as end notes, at the end of the essay. If they are given at the end, they are numbered consecutively without regard for the page on which they appear.

Footnotes: (a) to identify quotations; (b) to refer to other parts of the essay;
(c) to acknowledge indebtedness for words or ideas borrowed;
(d) to support one's argument, in a matter on which one is not an expert, by reference to a writer whose teaching has authority, carries weight;
(e) to indicate where additional evidence or comment may be found in authoritative sources;
(f) to furnish additional material or discussion which is pertinent (otherwise it should not be mentioned at all) but which, if included, would disturb the proportions of the text or distract from the argument.

The conventions of presentation in English essay-writing.

Class Lists

To list only those who appear as graduates of the school in the 'fifties would obviously give a false impression of those who actually attended in that decade. The simplest solution for this volume is to include the names of those who are listed as having left Gonzaga in the years up to at least 1965, thereby catching those who completed only six years in the school, but began in the 1950s.

There are on-going difficulties for anyone trying to put together the definitive list of those who have attended Gonzaga. Omissions are often discovered, and inaccuracies turn up frequently.

One obvious reason is that many students attended for only a short time, or left before the normal five or six year period. As mentioned in the introduction to the section on school photos, the early photos of Sixth Year classes do not correspond to the class lists of those who are given as their contemporaries – because of the special nature of Sixth Year and the fact that the majority left at the end of Fifth Year. A number of names have fallen through the gap in this case.

Printing the year-lists here gives readers the opportunity to spot any gaps, and help paint an accurate picture.

The earliest Graduates

The Class of 1958:

Alberto de Miraflores de Toledo
John Delaney
Leonard Little
Charles Lysaght
Michael O'Donovan
Ronnie O'Loughlen
Christopher Robson
Garret Shanley
John Mulhern
Jerry Liston
Dan Murphy
Niall Scott
Brendan Walsh



From left: B Walsh, R. O'Loughlen, J. Liston, C. Robson and C. Lysaght

The Class of 1959

David Maughan
Brian O'Loughlen
Fennell Betson
Tom Bieler
Owen Brady
David Buckley
David Carton
Darach James Dominick Corcoran
Rory Daly
Fergus Dowling
Fr. John Feighery
Michael Fitzgibbon
Diarmuid Gallagher
Iain MacFirbhisigh
Brian McLaughlin
George Kildare Miley
Charles Molony
David Owens
George Sisk
David Strahan
Killian Walsh
MacDara Woods

The Class of 1960

Conal Boyle
George Brady, SC
Francis Byrne
Damian Carroll
Anthony Clare
David Coyle
Edward D'Arcy
Brian Davy
Mariano de Miraflores de
Toledo
Gerry Devitt
Tommy Eustace
Denis Feighery
Ciaran Forbes
Ross Geoghegan
John Gibney
Marcus Hunt
Kevin Hurson
Colum Johnston
Brendan Kirby
John Lennon
Dermot McAuley
Myles McWeeney
Robert Nolan
Raymond O'Kelly
Arthur Plunkett
John Polk
John Richardson
Denis Robson
Eamon Sweeney
Michael Vaughan
Terence Walsh
Tim Webb

The Class of 1961

Maurice Ahern
Tony Barrington
Miguel Brazao
Olaf Burke
Paul Carney
Justin Carroll
Derek Carroll
Harry Crawley
Paul Creedon
Colin Cronin
Iorard Delaney
Ted Farrell
Dr James Feeney
Paul Feighery
Oliver Gannon
William Harnett
Brian Hartford
Alan Keenan
Tom Keenan
Denis Kelly
Noel Kenny
John Keogh
John Kiely
Brian Lawless
Jimmy Lennon
Kevin Liston
Paul Maher
Chris Mangan
Peter McCutcheon
John Murphy
Francis O'Brien
Michael O'Brien

Jack O'Donovan
Brian O'Flanagan
Simon O'Leary
Desmond
O'Loughlen
John O'Sullivan
Hal Sisk
Michael Walsh
Eoin White

The Class of 1962

John Boylan
Barry Bresnihan
John Cooke
Joseph Davy
Peter Delany
Paul Durcan
Michael Farrell
John Griffin
Nicholas Healy
Gerard Hosey
Timothy Lloyd
Gabriel McEnroe
Reggie McMahon
Paul Montgomery
David Murphy
Derek O'Brien
Donnchadh
O'Buachalla
Michael O'Callaghan
Brian O'Connell
Hugh O'Donnell

John O'Neill
Harry Owens
Gerald Owens
Patrick Riordan
Francis Roden
Laurence Traynor
Barry White

The Class of 1963

Michael Algar
Colm Barrington
Michael Boylan
Ralph De Vere
White
Peter Deevy
Owen Delany
Ian Eustace
Hugh Evans
William Farrell
Tom Feighery
Ian Finlay
Alexis Fitzgerald
Desmond Fleming
Cyril Forbes
Donal Gaynor
Paddy Gleeson
Dennis Jennings
Adrian Kenny
Pierce Kent
John King
Michael Laffan
Harry Laird
Thomas Lenehan

Terence Liston
Finbarr Lloyd
James Macken
John Mathews
William Murphy
John Murphy
Dermot O'Brien
John O'Leary
Stephen O'Mara
Alphonsus O'Mara
Norbert Prill
Richard Rice
Brian Rutledge
John Sisk
Esmond Smyth
Gerard Strahan

The Class of 1964

John Barnewell
Ian Candy
Brian Carroll
Peter Costello
Dermot Eustace
Oliver Farley
David Fassbender
Con Feighery
Richard George
John Howard
Martin Kelly
Brian Kirby
Richard Lenehan
Philip MacMahon
Peter

MacMenamin
Hubert Mahony
Sean
McCutcheon
Brian McLoghlin
Hugo McVey
Nahor Meenan
Redmond Morris
Tom Morris
Chris Murphy
Brendan Murphy
Bill Nowlan
David O'Connor
Denis Quilligan
Garrett Sheehan
Anthony Spollen
Peter Sutherland
Brian Walsh

The Class of 1965

Vincent Becker
Neil Brennan
Denis Cahalane
Vivian Candy
David Clarke
Patrick Crotty
David Crowley
Padraic de Bhaldraithe
Vincent Delany
Dr. David Doyle
Peter Dunkin
Eugene Dunne
Frank Fennell

John Fitzpatrick
Sean Galvin
Gerard Hooke
Kevin Kenny
Desmond Kent
Jim Kent
Gerard Landy
Joseph Mathews
Conor McHugh
Cian McHugh
Raymond Murphy
Donagh O'Brien
Eoin O'Buachalla
Paul Quilligan
Francisco Minieri Saint-
Beat
Eugene Spollen
Richard Strahan
Patrick Verner
Eoin Walsh
Raymond Whitaker

In Memoriam

At time of publication, October 2014, some twenty-eight of those named above are listed as deceased:

Class of 1958

Peter O'Connor
John Mulhern
Alberto Alvares de Toledo
Garret Shanley
Christopher Robson

Class of 1959

Brian McLoughlin
David Maughan

Class of 1960

Arthur Plunkett
David Coyle
Tom Eustace
Anthony Clare

Class of 1961

Justin Carroll
Francis O'Brien

Class of 1962

Barry Bresnihan
Gerard Hosey
Fr David Murphy SJ
Fr John Macken SJ
John Boylan

Class of 1963

James Macken
John Mathews

Class of 1964

Leslie Webb
Hugo McVey
Brian Carroll

Class of 1965

Vivian Candy
Neal Clarke
Jerry Lloyd
Michael Counihan
John Fitzpatrick

Requiescant in Pace

Where possible, the *Record* will include published obituaries or appreciations of the deceased. As the archive is still young, there are few such in its possession, so apologies are necessary for the following unrepresentative sample. As they become available, or are offered to us, they will be added to the existing publications.

To avoid issues of copyright, extracts will be taken from obituaries or appreciations published in newspapers or journals, except where already published in *The Gonzaga Record*

Once again, we are reliant on the collaboration of readers to bring records up to date.

Fr Edmund Keane SJ

An appreciation in *The Irish Times*, 20th June 2000 above the initials A.M. was contributed by Aidan Mathews ('74) and is reprinted in *The Gonzaga Record* 2000.

Arthur Plunkett ('60), died March 19th 2001

A founder pupil in 1950, he was a star cricketer, once taking four wickets in successive balls against Blackrock, and in the late 1970s returned to the cricket field with Phoenix and the Leprechauns (see recent photo of Charles Lysaght in Leprechaun blazer, below).

Deputy head of the Attorney General's Office where he served from 1973, he became a Law Reform Commissioner in 1997. He was effectively chief adviser to successive governments on European law for over 20 years.

Charles Lysaght's appreciation of him appeared in *The Irish Times*, 27th March 2001 and is reprinted in full in *The Gonzaga Record* for that year.



Charles Lysaght in distinctive Leprechaun blazer, with Kevin Whirdy, Principal (2013)

Christopher Robson ('58) *died March 24th 2013*



A founder pupil and one of the first graduates, Christopher was a founder member and president of the Gonzaga Union, whose minutes record his very active role in establishing it.

A civil rights activist and Board member of GLEN, which he co-founded in 1988, he was a committed advocate for social change his commitment and wise council was greatly valued. His generosity of spirit is said to have been the bedrock of GLEN's approach.

The Irish Times reported on his death and career on April 6th 2013

Anthony Clare ('60) *died 28th October 2007*

Despite Anthony Clare's very distinguished international reputation as a psychiatrist, academic and broadcaster, the archive of *The Irish Times* does not readily yield information about him. By contrast,



the British broadsheets gave his death and career extensive coverage. The website of St Patrick's Mental Health Services records the opening, by President Mary McAleese in September 2009, of a Tony Clare Memorial Garden in the grounds of St Edmundsbury Hospital in Lucan. It credits him with 'transforming the reputation of the psychiatric profession through his groundbreaking radio interviews and books.

Full obituaries can be found at the websites of *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Daily Telegraph*. The Wikipedia entry records his outstanding skills as an orator. He was auditor of the L. & H. at UCD and winner of the Observer Mace in 1964.

John Fitzpatrick (‘65) died 14th May, 2014



The Irish Times, in an obituary published on June 7th 2014, quotes his former medical colleagues who

named him 'a global leader in cancer treatment' and claimed that "it is no exaggeration to say that he could easily be described as the world's foremost urologist".

An outstanding teacher, and held in great esteem internationally, he was elected to membership of the US Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, a distinction rarely awarded to non-Americans, and invited to teach as a visiting professor

in practically all the university medical schools of the United States. He held over 45 visiting professorships globally.

One of his most significant contributions to Irish medicine, on his return to Dublin in 1981, as consultant urologist at the Meath hospital and the Trinity College School of Medicine at St James's Hospital, and, later, from 1986, as professor of surgery at UCD and the Mater, was the development of urology in Ireland to a standard of international best practice.

His colleague Terry Brugha ('71), Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Leicester wrote to the Union president at the time of his death: 'He was truly in the Nobel league in surgery.'

Fr John Macken SJ ('62) *died 7th May, 1996*

John Macken joined the Jesuits immediately after leaving Gonzaga. A 'brilliant and cultured man' who excelled at every stage of his studies, which included Eastern languages at UCD, he was ordained in 1974. A committed ecumenist, he taught at the Irish school of Ecumenics and at the Church of Ireland theological college. At the time of his premature death, he was president of the Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy.

A fuller obituary written by Fr Peter Sexton SJ appears in *The Gonzaga Record* 1996.

For information on the Past, the archive relies on what is passed on by alumni, either directly or, occasionally, channelled through the Union. It is through the good offices of John Murphy ('61) that we have details of the career of **Francis (Frank) O'Brien** (*died 4th June, 2011*) who spent some three years in Gonzaga and left in 1961.

Details of his distinguished career in the US military and in later life can be found at <http://www.west-point.org/users/usma1965/25881/>



Frank O'Brien ('61)

Barry Bresnihan ('62) died 18th July, 2010



Gonzaga's first rugby international, his sporting career is well documented: 25 caps for Ireland from 1966 to 1971, and selection on two occasions for the British and Irish Lions, touring New Zealand in 1966 and scoring five tries, and South

Africa two years later.

His professional career was just as outstanding. Having qualified as a doctor he specialised in rheumatology, studying at various specialist institutions in London and at the University of Texas in Dallas.

He was recognised abroad as having made an outstanding contribution to the study and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and so significant was his work in Ireland that in 1991 UCD created for him a special chair of Rheumatology, the first in Ireland.

Fr White and Fr Michael Shiel introduce Barry to some aspiring rugby players.



(See section on Sport for detail of the Bresnihan Memorabilia)

The Gonzaga Union

Thanks to Cyril Forbes (MacFirbhisigh), '63, the earliest minute book of the proceedings of the Union are now part of the archive collection. More about the Union's dealings have already appeared in subsequent volumes of the *Record*, but its foundation falls within the ambit of the 1950s.

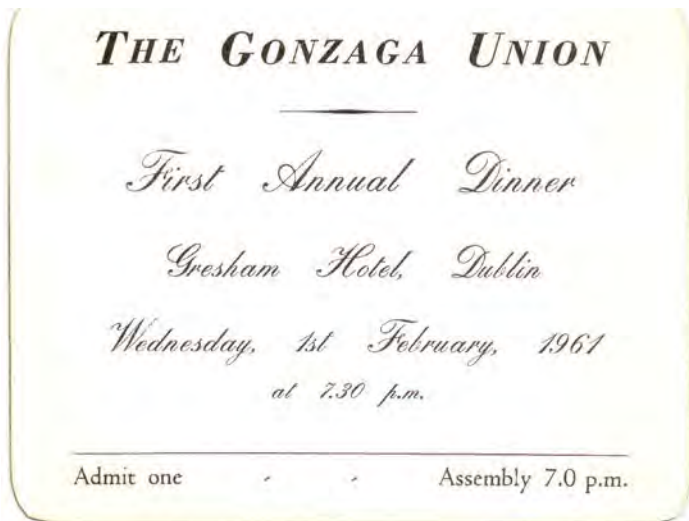
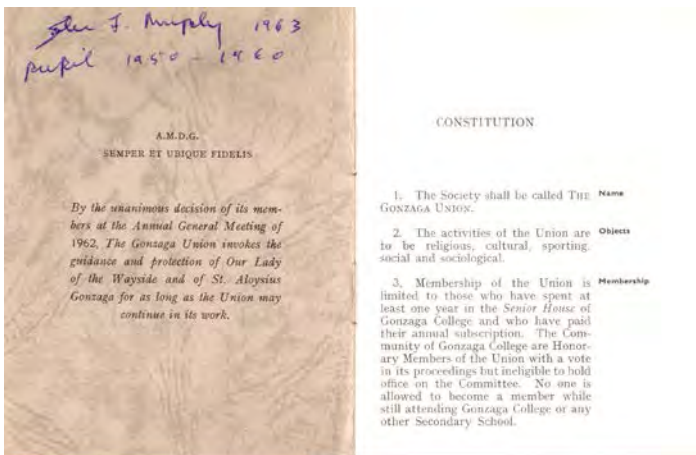
According to the minutes, the first annually-elected committee (1959-1960) 'did not keep records of its meetings'. The first committee is recorded, however:

Mr Brendan Walsh – President
Mr Christopher Robson – Vice-President
Mr Jeremiah Liston – Secretary
Mr David Buckley – Treasurer
Mr Niall Scott – Assistant Secretary.

All were among the graduates of 1958, although not all had been founder pupils.

A note records that the committee organised contests in debating, rugby and athletics against the College, and a retreat.

Much to the inconvenience of later presidents, the original constitution of the Union does exist!



--oOo--

Writers

The College's Sutherland Library has works listed to more than fifteen authors (of fiction, poetry, scholarship) who were students of Gonzaga.



The earliest published, 'Early Morning Matins' (Gallery Books, 1972), is by MacDara Woods ('59), on the left of this Gonzaga photo taken in 1950-'51

As it happens, he is not the first to have been published. The community history proudly records the publication during May, 1964, for the first time, of the writings of a Past Pupil – 'The Voyage', a volume of poetry by Tim Webb ('60), later a professor of English at Bristol University. Winner of a scholarship in Classics to TCD, some of his poems had won prizes prior to this publication – an American poetry award and one an *Irish Times* prize for poetry.

Subsequent volumes of the *Record* will list other authors and their works.

--oOo--

The mystery clock



This clock was discovered recently among items long discarded in the basement of St Joseph's House.

Almost certainly the 'master' clock controlling bells during the school day, and first installed in 1957 (see the manufacturer's note inside the casing, below), no-one can recall where it stood, and what it in fact did.

It has been suggested that it was the plaything of Fr Bill Lee, or at least that he would have been responsible for its care.

Can anyone shed light on where it originally stood?

Now restored, it hangs in the college library, keeping reasonably accurate time.



--oOo--Sports

There is a very considerable number of photos of Gonzaga sports dating to the early years, many of them in a very fine collection taken by Fionnbar Callanan, the distinguished photojournalist and father of Frank (1974), Paul (1978) and Richard (1981).

Many of the photos were donated some years ago, uncaptioned, and their donors unrecorded. Some captioning has even proved to be inaccurate.

The opportunity to offer us corrections and additions is now available on line.

Do – please! – take it.

--oOo--

Early Sports Days

A number of the photos of Sports Day in the collection are dated by the unknown contributor to 1955, and the existence of the completed new Hall and clock tower confirms that a date of 1957 added to others is probably correct. Some of the captioning has been called into question by contemporaries who were nonetheless unable to offer definite identifications.



A 'fifties sports day.



Spectators – and style.





Competitors



Without doubt the best-known photo from any Gonzaga Sports Day (partly because it was published by an Irish newspaper at the time) and probably taken by Fionnbar Callanan, shows Tadhg Gleeson ('66), aged 7 (extreme left), winning the 80 yards sprint to beat his uncle, Eoin O'Buachalla ('65) aged 8.

The boys' ages make a date of 1955 almost certain.



A sack race and the tug o' war





Captioned 'Sports 1955',
the competitors are listed
as 'O. Delany,
G. Strahan'.

If accurate, this is an early
photo of Gonzaga's first
Olympian yachtsman
(Munich 1972), and see
below for his prowess in
the u-12s 100 yards
(*Gonzaga Weekly June
1956*)



Also captioned 1955, *l-r*: B. O'Loghlen, D. Feighery,
K. Walsh, T. Eustace, P. Dempsey. 220 yds H'cap

Field Sports



1955

Long Jump
J. O'Neill
Class of '62



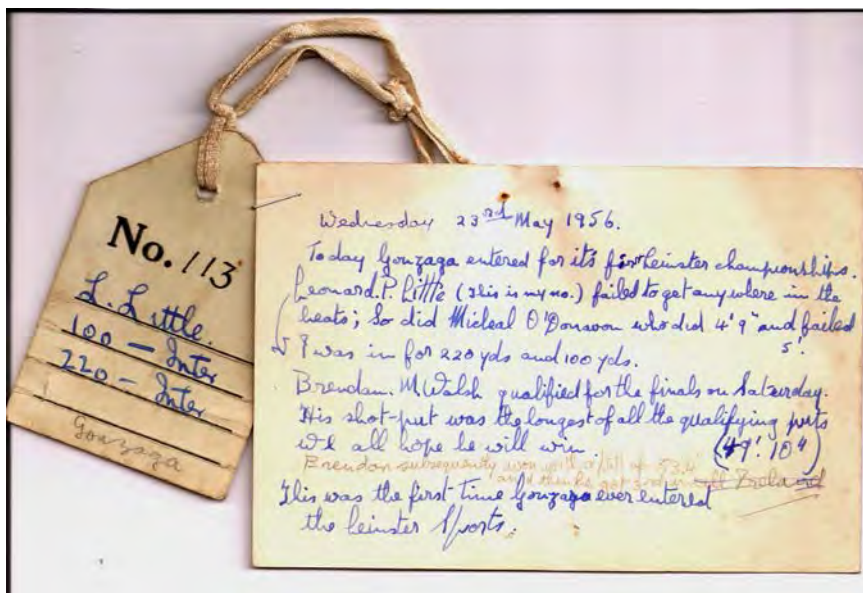
1955 P. Maher ('61) u-12 High Jump

A modicum of modest pride is the archivist's dream. Leonard Little ('58) was able to unearth this photo of his victory in the 220 yards, 2nd June 1956 as well as the carefully preserved record of the other placings.



2nd June 1956
220yds championship
1st L. Little
2nd M. O'Donovan
3rd D. Buckley
4th R. O'Leary
J.
Yongaga College

Gonzaga's first participation in the Leinster Athletics Championships, 23rd May, 1956



Attached to the competitor's registration tag is the account of the various outcomes for Gonzaga's entrants in different events. *(These documents courtesy Leonard Little)*

The slightly faded text records Brendan Walsh's ('58) victory in the shot, throwing 53'4", and his subsequent bronze in the all-Ireland championships.



This photo is captioned Sports Day 1957 and is probably a companion of the undated picture below, the new Hall and clock tower well completed.



S P O R T S (cont d)

Under fifteen, sixteen. High Jump. 1st. D. Murphy,
2nd F. Rader.

Under fifteen, sixteen. Long Jump. 1st. B. Brosnahan,
2nd. E. Smyth.

Under thirteen, fourteen. High Jump. 1st. D.
M. Passabender, 2nd N. Moore.

Under thirteen, fourteen. Long Jump. 1st
E. Prill, 2nd E. O'Duachalla.

Under twelve. Novelty Race. 1st T. Gleeson,
2nd D. O'Seara.

Under eleven. 220 Champ. 1st A. Ensor. 2nd
C. Davy.

SATURDAY:

Senior 100 yds. 1st JO'Donovan, 2nd G. Johnston.

Under fourteen, fifteen, three-legged race. 1st.
DO'Duachalla: 2nd G. Strahan and O'Dolancy.

Under fifteen 220 handicap; 1st O' Burke, 2nd
G. Owens.

Under sixteen 100 yds. 1st C. Davy, 2nd A. Ensor.

Under fourteen, 100 yds. Champ. 1st T. Lister,
2nd R. Rice.

Under 13, 220 handicap; 1st G. Shochan, 2nd K. Kenny.

Senior High Jump. 1st R. Goughan, 2nd M. Walsh.

Under twelve & Thirteen 440 relay; 1st K. Kenny,
D. McFibishig, R. Strahan, V. Candy.

Under twelve 220 handicap, 1st V. Becker, 2 T. Gleeson.

Under thirteen 100 yds. 1st E. O'Duachalla, 2nd
J. Eustace.

Senior & Under sixteen relay: 1st D. Davy, B. Brosnahan
M. Hunt, D. O'Flanagan.

Under fifteen, 100 yds. 1st. E. Smyth, 2nd
F. Reardon.

Under Ten Relay, 1st B. Morris, K. Barry, M. Kirby,
P. Murphy.

Under fourteen 220 yds. handicap: 1st T. Lister, 2nd
J. Matthews.

Another page from the *Gonzaga Weekly*, of later date; the young competitors of the earlier edition are now seniors.





--oOo--

Cricket

Though its profile in Gonzaga might appear to be low, cricket has been a part of school life since the beginning and at least three Gonzaga men have played international cricket at some level: David Ensor ('66), Eddie Lewis ('70) and George Dockrell (2010).



The first cricket XI, May 1952

(Back row, l-r) Myles McWeeney, Brendan Walsh, Garrett Shanley, Leonard Little, Ronnie O'Loughlen

(Middle) Iorard Delaney, Jerry Liston, Michael O'Donovan, David Carton *(Seated)* David Strahan, John Delaney

Once again, the archive is reasonably rich in photos but poor in detailed information. Charles Lysaght ('58) and David Ensor ('66) have each made helpful contributions in *Gonzaga at Sixty*, although they differ by one wicket in their memory of Arthur Plunkett's remarkable feat of bowling against Blackrock.

Detail on early coaching is slim, though the oral tradition is clearly in favour of Fr Keane's passion for the game; he 'came alive when the sun came out and the front field was his initial playground' until tennis seduced him. Ensor also refers to Fr Kavanagh's endurance of long afternoons and philosophical adjustment to his role as replacement. He was in turn replaced by Fr John Redmond.



Beginners – names required.



Lysaght recalls that Gonzaga first entered an eleven in the School's Junior Cup in 1956, at his instigation. Captained by Jerry Liston ('58) the team comfortably defeated St Patrick's Grammar School and had a thrilling one-run victory over Sandford Park. In this game Gonzaga's star batsman was Raymond O'Kelly ('60) who batted for the entire innings. St Andrews put Gonzaga out of the race. Arthur Plunkett's ('60; *see obituary*) remarkable four-wicket performance against Blackrock followed two years later. His classmate Tim Webb (later a professor of English at Bristol University) also distinguished himself as a bowler. Brian Walsh ('64) also made an impression on the young Ensor.

No doubt, some of the names mentioned may be found among the faces below.





To the left, Tony Spollen ('64), and . . . ?



A date and names, please!



Date and individuals not recorded.

Below: c.1958 (*Photo: David Fassbender, '64*)





Without positive identifications, it is more than likely that some of these photos are on the cusp of the 1960s. Once identified, they can be placed in their proper context.

--oOo--

A forward-looking note: the Community's *History of Gonzaga College* notes for June 15th 1963 that a College 1st XI met a Past 1st XI in the first-ever Past v Present cricket match. No result is recorded.

Rugby

‘Sport was a less successful part of the early Gonzaga,’ Charles Lysaght wrote in 1985, ‘giving the school an image of being a slightly precious place devoted to things of the mind.’ He follows this assertion with the immediate qualification that the number of pupils was too small to compete with larger and long-established schools in rugby. He lists the usual opponents in the early years as Belvedere seconds, St Paul’s Raheny, De La Salle (?), Monkstown Park and St Conleth’s. The view from the perspective of nearly 65 years later is clearly different, even if a victory in either the Leinster Senior or Junior Cup competitions still eludes us.

Nevertheless, the College can claim to have seen players of great distinction pass through its hands during the ‘fifties: brothers Con and Tom Feighery and Vincent Becker (all left the school during the first decade), and Barry Bresnihan (’62). Tony Ensor (’68) too shed the last of his milk teeth as a player on Gonzaga pitches in the late ‘fifties. Their international achievements are recorded in *Gonzaga at Sixty* (see section on Rugby).

As mentioned earlier at the end of the brief obituary note on Barry Bresnihan, the College is very pleased to have in its possession four scrap-books in which he collected records of his career as an international for Ireland and also of his two tours with the Lions. These were purchased for the archive by Garrett Sheehan (’64) and his generosity is acknowledged with gratitude.

Others who attended the school in the ‘fifties and left in the early ‘sixties distinguished themselves as members of university teams. The Jesuit community History of Gonzaga faithfully records the names of students who had provincial trials, and details will be added in the volume still to come which will cover Gonzaga life in that decade.

Once again – there is a wealth of photos, perhaps only half of them captioned.

Once again – there is an open invitation to corrections and additions.

--oOo--

The first team ever to play against an external opponent took the field against Belvedere’s under-elevens on March 14th 1951 (according to Fr Lee; Leonard Little ‘believes’ it was February). Trained by Fr John Murphy, himself a former Belvederean, they defeated their opponents 15-13.



The team (without putting names to faces):

J. Liston (full back); D. Strahan, G. Shanley, J. Mulhern, D. Carton (backs); L. Little (out-half); J. Delaney (scrum half); D. Gallagher, I. Delaney, O. Brady, R. O'Loughlen, G. McEnroe, P. Dempsey, B. Walsh (capt.) and M. Fitzgibbon (forwards).

The captain of the team from then until he left the school was Leonard Little. The photo (*below*) of the team for the entire 1951-52 season is captioned and can be used for comparison with the one on the previous page.



First Rugby XV

On ground: P. Dempsey, D. Strahan

Seated: D. Carton, B. Walsh, L. Little (capt.) M. O'Donovan, J. Delaney

2nd row: G. Shanley, O. Brady, R. O'Loughlen, G. McEnroe, J. Feighery

3rd row: I. Delaney, J. Mulhern

Back: J. Liston



Easily identifiable as belonging to the latter months of 1956: the partly-constructed Hall is visible to the rear. But the hooped jersey needs some historical explanation.







photo: Fionnbar Callanan

Two pages of early photos, four of them belonging to the Callanan collection (*coutesy Fionnbar Callanan*).



photo: Fionnbar Callanan

Below, the 1st XV, 1955-56



and a team selection sheet (*courtesy Leonard Little*).

R. M. C.
Gonzaga College

vs. De La Salle College, Dundrum

GROUND..... Date.....
Conveyance..... Kick off.....
Meet..... Fare.....

Full Back	.....
R. W.	.....
C.	.....
C.	.....
L. W.	.....
Out Half	.....
Scrum Half	.....
1	.....
2	.....
3	.....
Forwards 4	.....
5	.....
6	.....
7	.....
8	.....
(Backs.....)	
Substitutes (Forwards.....)	
Touch Judge	.....

Gonzaga College
1st XV versus
De La Salle,
Dundrum, January
9th 1955

Stars of the future.

These two photos both show Bresnihan in action in the Gonzaga jersey.



There are no details of the match itself, but the photos are taken from the same spot on the touch-line.

There is an extra value to the prints, however, as each is signed by players – both pictures by Barry Bresnihan and Esmond Smyth, the one to the right additionally by Joe Davy, Paul Montgomery and Colm Barrington and the one to the left by Gerald Owens.

Future stars (continued)



The photo catches Vinnie Becker (*front, third from left*) before he decamped to ‘complete his rugby education’ at Mungret. He is cited in on-line discussions as ‘the fastest player ever in Irish rugby’. The Lansdowne Rugby Club website refers to his ‘lightning pace’; affectionately known as the ‘red rocket’ he represented Ireland in the 100 metres as a member of the Crusaders between 1968 and 1976. His stock-in-trade was to score tries from well inside his own half.



A proud moment for Gonzaga: Becker and Ensor line

out for Ireland against France in 1974, not only beating the French but winning the Five Nations for the first time since 1951.

Con Feighery kindly donated the picture below of himself (*back row extreme left*) in the Gonzaga jersey, some time in 1957, he thinks, before he moved to Castleknock in the autumn of '58.



The team sheet for Feighery's international debut, playing no. 5 against France on 29th January 1972, includes Anthony Ensor at no. 16





Undated, above, and below, possibly '57-'58



Con Feighery appears at extreme right, top row.

The date and occasion of this photo below had eluded us until Peter McCutcheon ('61) responded to noticing it with an email months after it first appeared as an on-line archive item. There was no mistaking the presence of Tony O'Reilly at the back (or Paul Durcan, '63, prominently to the front), but no further information.



Peter wrote: ‘That's me in the centre of the picture, second row, below Tony, and while I recognize most of the faces, the names have faded. Some, however are still there.

It was a Wednesday afternoon in the autumn of '57 or '58 and Fr. Murphy surprised us during our afternoon practise with Tony's visit. Tony would have been in his early 20's, enjoying his new celebrity following his tries in the recent games against France and Scotland. As you tell from the picture we were exhilarated by his presence. I was playing

scrum-half for the school and my fly-half was Barry Bresnihan, whom you can see peeking in to the shot with Tony's left arm across his chest. I think Barry was class of '62 as were most of the other players. I was class of '61 and I recognize my classmate, Harry Crawley on the far left of the second row. I also recognize Gerard Strahan (third from left, front row) and Paul Durcan (fifth from left, front row).'

Peter's kind contribution is a model of what is of invaluable assistance to the archivist. His identifications should help with other photos of teams included here. He has also helped to identify the number of years during which Fr Murphy continued as a mentor to teams.





Senior Rugby Squad 1958-'59



The following signatures appear on the photograph on the back of this photo:

J. Feeney, M. O'Brien, J. O'Neill, B. Bresnihan, D. Murphy, J. Farrell, B. O'Flanagan, T. Webb, D. Coyle and A. Plunkett.

Leinster Schools Cup rugby . . . at last.



On a balcony outside the entrance to the new Coulson Theatre is a glass case containing sporting trophies. Just beside it is framed the newspaper accounts of Gonzaga's first adventure in cup rugby, presented at a reunion of the survivors of that original team, photographed below. The archive would very much like to record their identity.



Kevin Whirdy, Principal, receives the match reports from the original players.



The members of the Team from the Past who played the first Past-Present match in 1961. Ref: Dr Karl Mullen.

Men of (mostly) 1964



Back (*l-r*)

B Walsh, T Spollen, P Sutherland, D Fassbender, D
Eustace, J Howard

Front (*l-r*)

B Kirby, D Quilligan, L Webb, G Sheehan, K Kenny,
T Morriss

--oOo—

Tennis



THE EARLY DAYS of Gonzaga Tennis, at time of publication, still require research.

For tennis after the 'eighties records are plentiful; *Gonzaga at Sixty* contains the principal names and honours. For the 'fifties, however, the most authoritative source is beyond reach; with the death of Eddie Keane there were lost both his memories of players and team triumphs and, most regrettably, his notebooks – vanished, so far without trace.

There *is* a line of enquiry, however, still open to us: as editor/diarist of the community's History of Gonzaga, he has no doubt left an account to be researched and added to this volume at a later date.

The account of tennis successes already mined from the same chronicle for the 'sixties gives, perhaps, a foretaste, if not entirely relevant to this volume:

May 26th 1963 - Past v Pres tennis – Present (G Sheehan, B Kirby, D Fassbender P Sutherland) win 4-2 over past: (A Clare, D Strahan, M O'Brien)

1966 - Both Senior and Junior tennis teams reach finals of Inter Schools' Competition

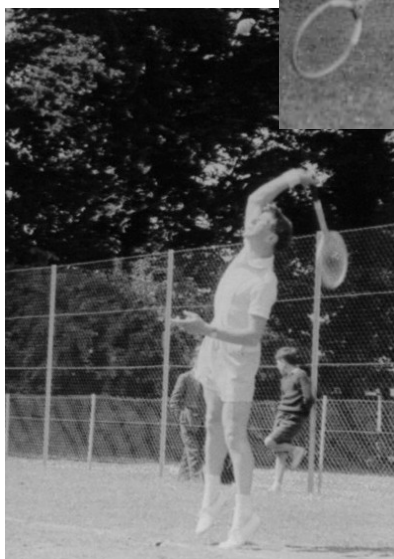
June 1st 1967 - Senior Tennis team wins Leinster Senior Cup by beating Belvedere. (T [Tony] Ensor, J Sheehan, P Murphy, P Coulson, D Brennan, B Morriss)

Photos of these teams will feature in the volume for the 1960s

For the photos which follow we have no names or dates. For now, the assumption has been made that these belong in the 1950.









Acknowledgements

This volume could not have been put together without the contributions of others.

The narrative thread, in particular, owes much to the two-part history of the foundation and development of the College written by the late Fr Bill Lee SJ for the first two editions of *The Gonzaga Record* (also now on line).

References to Charles Lysaght's memoirs of his days in Gonzaga have been made frequently and his generous contributions on numerous occasions are gratefully acknowledged.

Others have been very generous in donating photos and documents to the archive, or loaning them for copying. The editor is particularly grateful to Leonard Little, Ross Geoghegan, Michael Laffan, Cyril Forbes, David Fassbender, Joseph Davy and Mark Fitzgerald for taking time to write, or to meet and advise him over the last two years.

Of the many photos we possess, the majority were donated anonymously quite some time ago when Kevin Whirdy suggested that they should be collected to form the basis of an archive. Quite a number, however, are identifiable as donations by the Davy family, and in particular Fr Charlie Davy SJ.

Finally, the editor wishes to thank Fr Stephen Redmond SJ and Fr Paul Andrews SJ, both now members of the Milltown community, who welcomed him with such courtesy and gave most generously of their memories.

AMDG

October 24th, 2014





GONZAGA RECORD
1950 - 1959