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## Introduction

The Brisbane Historical Society presents herewith the text of papers delivered at meetings of the Society during 2017 and 2018, plus a couple held over from a prior time period. They represent a diverse range of topics and are indicative of the wide-ranging interest of Society members in matters historical across the Church in Queensland. We are very grateful to those who prepared and delivered their papers - not all are members of the Society. Their work on topics sometimes quite difficult to research is much appreciated.

One of the aims of the Society is to present papers on subjects - people, places and happenings – which might otherwise have been forgotten. The papers by our President, Dr Chris Hanlon and long-time society member Dr Martin Sullivan certainly fall into that category. They have painstakingly researched the contribution to the Queensland Church of two of our pioneering priests – Fr Francis Dunham and Fr James Comerford. The efforts of these two men in ministering to their scattered flocks in the north and west of the State makes very interesting reading.

Although we are the **Brisbane** Catholic Historical Society, we try to ensure that our papers cover topics of interest across the whole of Queensland, not just the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The material from two of the papers in this issue does just that. Mrs Jan O'Donoghue brings to light the story of the Grail in the regional city of

Mackay, while Dr Maree Ganley gives us an interesting account of St Ursula's College in Yeppoon, where hundreds of young women from all over central Queensland and beyond have been educated.

Two longstanding educational institutions in the Queensland Church are Banyo Seminary where our future priests receive their training, and St Leo's College, the Catholic residential institution which caters for young men studying at the University of Queensland for a wide range of other professions. Banyo turned 75 in 2017, and St Leo's celebrated its centenary in the same year. Monsignor John Grace, the current seminary rector, and Fr Michael Head SJ, former rector of St Leo's, brought us the history of these two places where so many of our priests and leading laymen have prepared for their future professional life. Also included in this edition of the Journal is a paper given by Fr John Chalmers at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for the seminary. Although not delivered at one of our meetings, it complements the work of Monsignor Grace.

Both St Leo's and Banyo Seminary continue today. Mrs Barbara Foster and Mrs Sheila Corcoran tell of an 'institution' which was a significant part of Brisbane life from the 1970s until its demise in 2016. Their account of the Ignatians Musical Society took so many of us on a trip down memory lane, and we know it will do the same for those who read the print version of their lively and entertaining presentation.

Finally, Sr Rita Clancy gave an informative paper on the work of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in

Brisbane. These sisters certainly contributed to the Church in Queensland well beyond their Corinda base.

Unfortunately, the text of the papers delivered by Sr Rita and Fr Michael Head was not available, so an edited version of each appears in this Journal. As often happens, a couple of other papers given at our meetings were not ready for publication at the time this issue of the Journal went to press, so they have been held over until our next issue.

While our quarterly newsletter and our biennial Journal of Proceedings have been the major means of communication with members unable to get to our regular meetings, we now have a third way of reaching, not just our members, but the general public. This year, the Society launched itself into the digital age and produced a website: [www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au). We invite you to check it regularly, as it often contains more up-to-date information than it is possible to give through our print media.

Enjoy reading about our Society and its work, whichever medium of communication you choose!

Sr Anne Hetherington RSM

Secretary, Brisbane Catholic Historical Society

## **Contributors**

**SR RITA CLANCY OLSH** did her secondary education at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Corinda. After joining the OLSH Sisters, she became a teacher and taught at Corinda before moving to other States. After returning to Corinda, in later life, she became involved in prison ministry. Currently she is the pastoral associate in the parish of Dysart in central Queensland.

**BARBARA FOSTER & SHEILA CORCORAN** were both long time members of the Ignatians Musical Society, Sheila performing in the very first production in the early 1970s. She took a lead role in several subsequent productions, and used her dancing and acting skills in designing the choreography for many performances. She was an early President of the Society, and served as a long time Vice-President. Barbara, who trained at the Queensland College of Art, did many of the set designs, and was also a chorus member in several productions. Persuaded by her teenage daughters, she was instrumental in setting up the Ignatians youth theatre, of which she was the director for several years. Both women are now proud members of 'The Fossils'- a group of ex-Ignatians who meet regularly for fun and fellowship and to reminisce about former times.

**MAREE GANLEY PhD** was an educator in Catholic secondary schools in Central Queensland and South East Queensland for over forty years, holding positions of Head of Department and a member of college leadership teams. Later she was Director of Advancement at St Leo's Catholic men's residential college within the University of Queensland. Maree has recently completed a PhD at ACU Brisbane campus on the History of St Ursula's Yeppoon, a convent boarding school for girls on the central coast of Queensland. She is actively involved in the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society and the Queensland Women's Historical Society.

**MONSIGNOR JOHN GRACE** was ordained priest from Pius XII Seminary, Banyo, in St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton, on 6 August 1970. Until becoming Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary at the beginning of 2016 he has served in Parishes, the Tribunal and Chancery Offices in the Diocese of Rockhampton. He pursued overseas studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada from 1989 to 1991.

**FR CHRIS HANLON PhD** is a priest of the Brisbane Archdiocese who gained his PhD in history from the University of Queensland. Although his main area of research is the Middle Ages, he has a great interest in the early history of Queensland, particularly church history. He is the author of the entries for Fathers Edward Leo Hayes and Gerard Joseph Nichol in *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*. He is currently President of the

Brisbane Catholic Historical Society, and chaplain at the Holy Spirit Home at Carseldine.

**FR MICHAEL HEAD SJ** has been a Jesuit for just over fifty years. He has spent 19 years teaching in secondary schools, nine years in University Colleges and twelve years as vice rector of Jesuit Theological College. Books include a history of Aquinas College (University of Adelaide), 'More than a School' (St Patrick's College in Melbourne) and history of the parishes of Hawthorn and Richmond published on line. In addition about 60 articles have been published, mostly on naval history and especially on the intervention in Russia 1917 to 1920. Presently he is the archivist of the Australian Jesuit Province and is frequently asked to give public lectures for a range of various historical topics.

**ZELLE HODGE MBBS** is a Brisbane GP. She and her husband, Rob, were encouraged by Professor Tess Cramond to become members of the Order of Malta about which they knew very little. With Tess they had been Presidents of AMA Qld and shared Tess's and the Order's commitment to the provision of palliative care services by Mt Olivet Hospital. Zelle is also a past President of the Queensland Medical Women's Society and a past member of the All Hallows' School Board. She is a member of the University of Queensland Senate, St Leo's College Council and the Medical Benevolent Association of Queensland Board. Zelle and Rob have four children and five gorgeous grandchildren.

**JAN O'DONOGHUE BA(Q) MAppSc (Library) (CSturt) ALIA**, a former Reference Librarian at QUT, was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in Bundaberg. While growing up, her family was befriended by Mr and Mrs Ted Sheeran, retired hoteliers, whose only child Pat had joined the Grail. They often had as guests Senior Grail Ladies who broke their long rail journey to the North. Later while working at the University of Queensland Library, Jan met Denise Sullivan who was considering joining the Grail Nucleus. Many decades later, married with a family, Jan joined a small but very active group of women in Brisbane who had known the Grail and share their commitment and vision.

**MARTIN SULLIVAN PhD** attended primary and secondary schools in North Queensland and graduated from Kelvin Grove Teachers College in 1954. While he was teaching in State primary and secondary schools in south-east Queensland he studied at the University of Queensland, graduating MA in 1972. Appointed to a senior teaching fellowship at Monash University in 1972, he stayed for nearly twenty-eight years, graduating with a Ph D in 1978. He had the good fortune of having two outstanding thesis supervisors: the eminent Professors Colin Hughes and RJW Selleck. As best he can he continues to follow their advice. His continuing research interests focus on labour history, histories of schooling, and the Catholic Church in Queensland.