

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

Delegation to The United States of America

Lord Nicholas Windsor – Royal Patron
Lord Alton of Liverpool – Chairman
Mrs Jan Graffius – Curator
Anton' de Piro – Secretariat to the delegation

1st – 6th October 2013

Day One

It was moving to see a long queue form to venerate the crucifix of St. Thomas More, after Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, celebrated Mass at the beginning of the visit of Lord Nicholas Windsor, Royal Patron of the Christian Heritage Centre project at Stonyhurst. Later, there was standing room only at a packed meeting at the city's Catholic Information Centre. Stonyhurst Curator, Jan Graffius, traced the links between the English

Catholic Church and the American Church. She also described the extraordinary Collections held at Stonyhurst - and sacred objects dating from the Middle Ages to the present day. Lord Windsor said that a new Christian Heritage Centre would allow hundreds of thousands of people to have access to the inspirational stories which the Collections - held in the English-speaking world's oldest private museum - represent. Lord Alton, Chairman of the project, said that the sacrifices and suffering of the past have



Lord Nicholas Windsor, Cardinal Wuerl of Washington, Lord Alton of Liverpool

a direct link to the estimated 100,000 people who lose their lives annually on account of their religious beliefs. The Christian Heritage Centre would ensure that a new generation knew their own story; knew the price which had been paid for their freedom; and that the Centre would promote tolerance, mutual respect and coexistence. During the celebration of morning Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, in Washington DC, on day two of the week long visits, the Archbishop Emeritus, Cardinal McCarrick, expressed his support for the



Lord Alton, George Weigel, Lord Nicholas Windsor, Fr Arne Panula, director of the Catholic Information Centre Washington.

Christian Heritage Centre project, and said that: "Through a proper appreciation and understanding of our past we will be equipped to face the considerable challenges which confront us today and which will continue to face us in the future. Through the witness of John Fisher, Thomas More, Edmund Campion and the other men and women who gave their lives for the Faith in England we can be affirmed in our own faith, learning that if your faith is worth dying for it is well worth living for. The ties which bind the daughter Church of America with the Catholic Church of England are of infinite value; something to be cherished and celebrated." A meeting with

the Cardinal was followed by a presentation at the Catholic University of America Tomorrow there will be presentations at Congress and Georgetown university. Among the items which will be viewed there are artifacts of Charles and John Carroll. Ten members of the Carroll family attended Stonyhurst College, either on the Continent or in Lancashire. Charles became the only Catholic to sign the American Declaration of Independence and John became a Jesuit and the first American Catholic bishop. Of 130 boys from Maryland, the College produced 43 Jesuits and 3 secular priests, the men who laid the foundations of the Church in America. Day 2



Congressman Chris Smith, Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Dr Billington, Librarian of Congress

Day Two



Jan Graffius, curator, showing Cardinal McCarrick the Cross of St Thomas More.

On the second day of their visit to promote the Christian Heritage Centre. (CHC) project at Stonyhurst, Lord Nicholas Windsor, Lord Alton and the CHC Curator, Mrs. Jan Graffius, addressed students and staff at the Washington campus of the Catholic University of America (CUA). Among those present were the CUA President, Mr. President Garvey, Professor Chris Grech, a former student at Stonyhurst College, of Maltese origin, and now Professor of

Architecture at CUA and Professor Andreas Widmer of CUA's Business School and author of "The Pope and the CEO", based on his experiences serving as a senior Swiss Guard with Blessed John Paul II. The principal guest was Mr. Justice Antonin Scalia, who has served in America's Supreme Court since 1986 and has been deeply influenced in his distinguished

judicial career by the life and example of St. Thomas More, England's one time Lord Chancellor. Mr. Justice Scalia was among the many who revered the crucifix of the Catholic martyr in the university chapel before the presentation and speeches in the university's Caldwell Hall. He later described how his own faith had been stirred as a young man, in the 1950s when, on a visit to Hyde Park in London, in the shadow of the Elizabethan Tyburn, where over 100 Catholic women and men, including St. Edmund Campion, had been executed for their faith, he had heard a Catholic priest speaking on behalf of the Catholic Evidence Guild. Lord Alton said that



Lord Nicholas Windsor, Supreme Justice Scalia, Lord Alton at The Catholic University of America

"the telling again the truths of the old story" were the inspiration behind the CHC project and that the Stonyhurst Collections were "part of the Catholic Haggadah- a Hebrew word which means to relate, to tell, to expound the Jewish story as well as meaning to bind, to join, to connect." As the Jewish story is orally handed on at Pesach, Catholics need to hand on their story to the next generation. Failure to do so risks loss of identity and the erosion of society's Judaeo-Christian values." Mrs. Graffus showed slides of some of thousands of sacred objects held at Stonyhurst and movingly retold the stories of some of those who were directly connected to them - from Mary Queen of Scots to the assassinated El Salvador Archbishop, Oscar Romero. She told her American audience that "our story is in many respects also your story", recalling the many connections - ecclesiastical and civil. Illustrating this, she narrated the story of a young Stonyhurst pupil, Thomas Meagher, who studied at the College between 1839 and 1843. Meager was an Irish student whose father was a Westminster MP. Deeply affected by the suffering in Ireland during the Irish Famine when 1 million died and 3 million emigrated to America, Meagher campaigned for Irish independence - and was arrested, charged with treason, sentenced to death but then transported as a prisoner to Australia. He escaped from Tasmania, reached America, raised an Irish Brigade to fight on the side of the Union in the Civil War. Having achieved fame for his bravery and courage, General Meagher would become Governor of Montana. Lord Nicholas said that the stories which we hold in common deserve to be celebrated and never forgotten - perhaps through a dedicated American Gallery at the Christian Heritage Centre and that the more than 40,000 historic books held in the archive at Stonyhurst "will be accessible to scholars and academics from around the world while Britain's 800,000 Catholic school children, along with many, many, others, will have the chance to be inspired by the Christian story in the Centre's proposed Visitor's Centre." Inspired by Lord Nicholas' message, several American supporters of the project announced that they will form an American Friends of the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst to back the project.

Day Three

During Day Three of the visit to the United States by Lord Nicholas Windsor, Royal Patron of the Christian Heritage Centre (CHC) at Stonyhurst, members of the American House of Representatives and Senate attended events to promote the project.



Lord Alton and Lord Nicholas Windsor meet school children visiting Washington from Nebraska at the invitation of Congressman Jeff Fortenberry

The day began at a breakfast meeting at Congress attended by the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington and Congressmen Tim Huelskamp of Kansas, Chris Smith of New Jersey, Robert Aderholt of Alabama, Keith Rofthus of Pennsylvania, Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska and Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. Archbishop

John Carroll's prayer for Congress and for just laws was read at the commencement of the breakfast. Later in the day, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia also participated in one of the events celebrating the links between British and American Catholics.

In the presence of Mr. Adam Augustine Carter, a direct descendent of the Carroll family, the Stonyhurst curator, Mrs. Jan Graffius, showed the U.S. legislators a copy of the School book which had been used by John Carroll when a student in Syntax and then passed to his cousin, Charlie, and signed by them both. John would become a Jesuit and America's first Catholic bishop and founder of Georgetown University and Charles the Catholic signatory to the American declaration of Independence. Charles was elected to the American Senate and to the Maryland Senate.



Prof. Fr John Langan SJ Former Rector of Georgetown University, Lord Alton, Lord Nicholas Windsor, Jan Graffius, Prof Farr of The Berkley Centre, Georgetown University

Dr. Billington told the breakfast meeting that letters from Charles Carroll "are scattered throughout the Congressional archive - and they especially underline the great friendship between Charles Carroll and George Washington." He said that after the death of Jefferson and other signatories Charles became the sole surviving signatory of the Declaration, described as "an aged oak standing alone on the plain."

Lord Alton presented the Librarian and members of Congress with a

recently discovered and translated text of a poem written by Charles Carroll, in 1754 when he was aged 17. The poem was described by Mrs. Graffius as "sophisticated and remarkable" and is a defense of religious liberty, the important place of conscience, and a warning of the danger of surrendering beliefs and convictions as a trade for personal advancement.

The delegation were then received by Professor Thomas Farr of Georgetown University's Berkley Centre for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. In a speech which examined the secularisation of Western societies Lord Nicholas Windsor said that the attempted systematic destruction of Catholic culture in England had begun with "the extirpation of the monasteries by Henry VIII and the State's attempt to eradicate collective memory." He said that in the climate of "the suppression of Catholic culture, Stonyhurst had



Raymond Arroyo of EWTN, Lord Nicholas Windsor, Lord Alton, Jan Graffius

become a safe haven, a depository for precious items and artifacts which reflect the sacred history of England." He said "It is to provide an accessible and suitable home for these collections that we are determined to create an international Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst."

Lord Alton presented a paper on the challenges to present day religious liberties and the failure to uphold the principles contained in Article 18 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees the right to religious freedom. He said the creation of a Christian Heritage Centre would be an opportunity to promote religious toleration, coexistence and respect and to highlight contemporary forms of persecution.

Later in the day, Raymond Arroyo, of the Catholic TV network, EWTN, interviewed the delegation for his flagship current affairs programme, The World Over - and told viewers that he intends to visit Stonyhurst to make a feature length programme about what called "these unique and remarkable collections."



Jan Graffius, Lord Nicholas Windsor, Ann Corkery being presented with the Stonyhurst Tartan

In the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Corkery and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Leo, hosted a dinner at the Georgetown Club, which was attended by a number of prominent figures from Washington's cultural, religious and political circles and who gathered in support of the project.

Day Four

On the fourth day of the visit to the United States by Lord Nicholas Windsor, the Royal Patron of the Christian Heritage Centre project at Stonyhurst, the day began with a meeting in Washington DC at the offices of former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush.

Lord Alton discussed the digitalisation of the historic Stonyhurst Collections with John Bailey, who is a senior member of Governor Bush's team, and is Executive Director of the Jeb Bush programme "Digital Learning Now!". He has previously been a White House advisor on educational issues and expressed great interest in the accessing of the Collections through a worldwide educational digital pathway.

The U.S. - U.K. educational company, Edison Learning, has been working with the CHC to explore the digitalisation of the Collections, allowing schools throughout the world to use these unique resources for educational purposes.



Jeb Bush's great-grandfather, George Herbert Walker studied at Stonyhurst College between 1890 and 1892 and would have seen and handled books and artifacts held in the Collections. George H Walker - of Walker Cup fame - was not only a great sportsman but took part in several school concerts, playing the mandolin, and introduced the first known bicycle to Stonyhurst.

Links with George Herbert Walker's educational formation have manifested themselves in various ways. Jeb Bush's uncle, William H.T. Bush, was Chairman of the Jesuit St.Louis University and a cousin was educated by the Jesuits at Georgetown. President George H.W Bush is an honorary member of the Stonyhurst Park Golf Club.

Crosier of Archbishop John Carroll



Carl Anderson Supreme Knight of Columbus, Lord Alton, Archbishop Lori of Baltimore, Lord Nicholas Windsor

On leaving Washington the Group travelled to Baltimore - where College alumnus, John Carroll, became the first American Catholic bishop. They were greeted by Archbishop William E.Lori, John Carroll's successor in America's primatial Catholic See, and by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus and Mrs. Anderson.

After a presentation and visit to the tomb of John Carroll in Baltimore Cathedral the Archbishop celebrated the votive Mass of St. Edmund Campion in his Oratory chapel. He did so in the presence of a relic of St. Edmund Campion brought from the Stonyhurst Collections - a fragment of the clothes he was wearing while a hunted priest in England. He delivered a powerful and moving sermon on the life of Campion and its relevance to contemporary challenges to religious liberty.

The Archbishop, wearing the Pectoral Cross of John Carroll, said that "the Church in America began in these rooms, descending from the Catholic Church in England. It is directly connected to Stonyhurst" and he prayed for Stonyhurst during the Mass.

Lord Alton described the Catholics who brought the faith to Maryland as "America's Catholic pilgrim fathers" and noted that "we often talk of the special relationship between the UK and USA but the truly special relationship, and one which is often wholly overlooked, is the relationship between the Catholic communities of our two countries. These are ties which bind."

The presentation of the Stonyhurst Curator, Mrs. Jan Graffius, focused on the price paid in the past for religious liberty by English Catholics, such as Edmund Campion, Edward Oldcorne and Robert Southwell, and on the role of St. Omers and the Jesuit Order in forming young men for an uncertain future in which the practice of their own faith in their native land was proscribed.



Jan Graffius showing Camilla Carroll her ancestors' school book

She told the story of St. Thomas More's crucifix and the part faith had played in shaping More's decision to hold fast to his beliefs although it cost him his life.

Lord Nicholas said that penal times "were an astonishing time of peril for those who refused to renounce their faith;" that "a more horrible death than that experienced at Tyburn can hardly be imagined - designed to terrify the population as well as to inflict terrible suffering." He added that "a Christian Heritage Centre would ensure that these stories are not forgotten and help to rebuild our Catholic culture."

Day Five

Day five of the visit to the United States by Lord Nicholas Windsor to promote the Christian Heritage Centre project at Stonyhurst began in New York City at the Church of St. Thomas More with a Mass celebrated by the parish priest, Fr. Madigan. A queue of parishioners and workers en route to their nearby offices and places of work came forward to venerate the Crucifix of the English martyr, and patron saint of statesmen, politicians and lawyers, Sir Thomas More. They were joined by parents whose children board at Stonyhurst and, amongst others, by Miss Kelly Ryan, a senior United Nations official.

Next, a presentation was staged at the historic West Club – sponsored jointly by Stonyhurst parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Morley and former pupil, John Stiller, who attended the College between 1946 and 1953. Mr. Stiller generously led the New York donations with a cheque which he presented to Lord Nicholas Windsor.

During his remarks, Lord Windsor said that "I have become very bitten by this project. The Society of Jesus knew, when they established their school – now the oldest Jesuit school in the world – that what was needed wasn't just the education of young people but the very preservation of Christian culture – which was very nearly obliterated.

"St. Ignatius recognized that through education the thread of the tradition could be preserved until safer times and he and his followers used literature, art, drama and culture to achieve this.

"Those Catholic parents who wanted to ensure that their children remained true to this tradition not only sent their boys to be educated but sent what was left of their sacred objects. Stonyhurst has been key to keeping that tradition and Catholic culture alive in the 'British Isles and now, through this great project, we must make it available to many others."

The Curator of the Collections, Mrs. Jan Graffius, began her remarks by quoting G.K.Chesterton: "Tradition is the living voice of the dead."

She illustrated her talk with images, including a remarkable 1640 engraving showing a symbolic bear and shapeless cubs- the mother bear representing the Jesuit educators literally licking the unformed young into shape. It was an amusing and telling point (See attachment).

She said that the educational values represented by Stonyhurst and the Christian Heritage Centre rejected indoctrination and emphasized formation.



Lord Nicholas Windsro, Lord Alton, and HM Consul General to New York Danny Lopez

There followed a luncheon at the British Consulate in New York, hosted by Mr. Danny Lopez, the Consul General. He told the guests that the Christian Heritage Centre project had a special place in his heart as his grandfather, Francis Waddington, who had died at the end of last year, aged 100, had studied at Stonyhurst between 1918 and 1930. He and his colleague, Mrs. Caroline Hendrix, made the guests extremely welcome and in the discussion which ensued, Fr.

Thomas M. McCoog, SJ, of Fordham University and the British Province of the Society of Jesus, said that the educational opportunities presented by the Christian Heritage Centre “is good for the Catholic Church; good for the Society of Jesus; and good for the United Kingdom.” He said that there were great possibilities to use the project to combat old prejudices and to heal old wounds: “Remembrance without recrimination.”

Lord Alton said that the project would contribute significantly to creating an awareness of what intolerance can lead to and would also contribute to the promotion of co-existence and community cohesion. He highlighted the support which the project has received from significant patrons who are members of other Christian denominations and other faiths: “In what better city emphasise the importance of learning to live together than in New York, where so many innocent people lost their lives in the terrible violence of 9:11.”



Jan Graffius presenting to those gathered at the British Consul General's residence

Mrs. Graffius recalled the words of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the aftermath of the World Trade Centre tragedy that “Grief is the price we pay for love.”

Later in the day the delegation joined Lord Nicholas' cousin, His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, at an event to commemorate the contribution made by British and American servicemen to the defence of the free world. Stonyhurst, in addition to its 23 martyrs, of whom 3 are canonised saints, produced 7 Victoria Crosses awarded for the ultimate gallantry, and Field Marshall, the Lord Guthrie GCB, LVO, OBE, DL, KCSG, KM, KCJCO, former Chief of Staff of Britain's Armed Forces and honorary commandant of the SAS, is one of the principal patrons of the Christian Heritage Centre project.

Day Six

At the end of their visit to the United States, Lord Nicholas Windsor and the team promoting the Christian Heritage Centre (CHC) project at Stonyhurst, gave a presentation at the University of Princeton and held meetings in Boston hosted at the University of Harvard Faculty Club by Professor Ginny Greiman of Harvard and Martha King of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Jan Graffius at Princeton University

Professor Michael Breidenbach, of Princeton, welcomed the delegation to Princeton and recalled his own time as a visiting scholar who worked in Stonyhurst's historic libraries while writing his doctoral thesis and in preparation for his forthcoming book on the Carroll family.

Lord Nicholas Windsor, Royal Patron of the CHC, began the presentation by referring to what he described as "the ruthless campaign to suppress a thousand year old Catholic culture." He said that "St. Omer and then Stonyhurst became a unique repository which was used by Jesuit teachers to educate children in their care. That tradition is kept alive by many of today's lay teachers. What is desperately needed is to make available to a much wider audience access to historic collections which must be allowed to speak to our own times." He said that the vision of the new Christian Heritage Centre was to give a global audience physical access and digital internet access to the collections.

The Curator of the Collections, Mrs. Jan Graffius, recalled how, when conserving the alb worn by the assassinated Archbishop, Oscar Romero, she asked a group of Salvadorian schoolchildren what the blood stained vestments meant to them: "They tell a truth which our government did not want us to hear." She showed the Princeton audience fragments of the cloth from these same vestments along with a fragment of the tunic worn by the hunted, tortured and executed priest, St. Edmund Campion – saying that, although separated by 400 years, the common themes of conscience, religious freedom and justice united them.

In an illustrated talk, Mrs. Graffius described the role played by St. Omers College – Stonyhurst in its earlier incarnation - and its collections in the preservation of religious freedom for Catholics, both in England and America.

She showed an early 17th century missal adapted particularly for English priests on the mission, published at Douai in 1609. The missal pared down the liturgy and the rites surrounding the sacraments of baptism, confession and marriage to the absolute minimum possible, as there was often very little time to celebrate these rites due to the danger of betrayal and discovery. It also contained a ceremony for consecrating small portable altar stones (such as the one in the collections used by St. Edmund Arrowsmith, who was executed at Lancaster in 1628), which could be carried by priests, ensuring that



A child reaches out to touch the Crucifix of St Thomas More, accompanied by his parents

they could celebrate Holy Mass in private houses, since there were no churches or chapels open to them. These artifacts, and many others mentioned, illustrate the extreme difficulties faced by Catholics and priests practicing their faith in the 17th century.



Lord Nicholas Windsor, Jan Graffius, Prof. Greiman of Harvard University, Martha King, Lord Alton.

In his address, Lord Alton linked the persecutions of earlier times with violence against religious believers worldwide – describing the recent destruction of Christian churches, homes and businesses in Egypt as “Egypt’s Kristallnacht.” He quoted the former British Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, who has described the attacks on Christians throughout the Middle East as “a tragedy going almost unremarked” and “the religious equivalent of ethnic cleansing.”

Closer to home, Lord Alton commented on the impact of laws passed in the United States and the United Kingdom on religious freedom and said that “the subversion of conscience is the perennial question faced by Christians down the ages. He said that “ To require American nuns, running wonderful hospitals and health care facilities, to provide access to abortifacients is an attempt to subvert conscience and an assault on religious liberty. They will end up facing the same dilemma as the Scottish midwives hauled before the courts for refusing to abort unborn children. The right to freedom of conscience and to religious liberty is part of the struggle for democracy, exemplified by men like John and Charles Carroll. The struggle for religious freedom is a part of an indivisible human rights framework and linked directly to the struggle of men like Thomas More – to be loyal servants of their nation but true to their conscience.” Furthermore, Lord Alton argued, that religious freedom “solidifies society” and said that “the creation of a Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst “offered an opportunity to recall the effects of intolerance and persecution, to give voice to today’s persecuted people, and a place in which to promote coexistence, tolerance and respect.”



The Crucifix of St Thomas, in its museum case, is accompanied through airport security by United States Trooper Bob.

The delegation now returns to the United Kingdom.

Laus Deo Semper.