

HISTORY OF SAVIO COLLEGE

--- by request of letters to the editors  
HISTORY OF HOLY NAME ALSO WILL FOLLOW

Then the Amalgamation period

\*\*\*- by Mr Basil Fox -\*\*\*

The story really will be of Savio College, a school for boys - and girls to some extent, but more of that later. During the past twenty five years the school has been conducted by the Salesians of Don Bosco, and, therefore, in terms of time is this year celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

But to return briefly to the seemingly tourist-loaded commencement of our story those so-called piquant labels were selected because of their strong connotations with the school. It is in a delightful setting nestling, jewel like, alongside a sparkling mountain water reservoir at the foot of Mount Wellington on an extensive property that was once an apple orchard. Salesian Superior Consultor, Father Alvin Fedrigotti, a brother of the first Australian Provincial, on a visitation a few years ago to this comparatively young Province remarked that the setting of Savio College would match any in the whole world of Salesian Houses, so I need make no excuses for the pretentious expressions used to introduce the story.

BOYS' HOME GLENORCHY

The institution that was later to become known as Savio College had its physical beginning in the year 1945 when the Archbishop of Hobart, Most Rev. E.V. Tweedy, aided by three Catholic gentlemen in Hobart, Dr. T.R. Gaha, and Messrs. B.A. McCann and M.A. Morgan, purchased in the quiet norther suburb of Glenorchy an old orchard property that had contained some 6,000 apple trees which were uprooted because of their age.

The property, consisting of 56 acres, was situated in Upper Tolosa Street almost two miles from the Main Road which was constructed in the early settlement days of what was then Van Dieman's Land to connect what are now the cities of Hobart and Launceston, south and north of the island. The property, located in the mountain foothills, was then virtually in the backblocks of Glenorchy, but now in this principally industrial suburb, that within the last few years attained its own status, there are neat, modern homes in close proximity to the school, which nevertheless, retains its lovely backdrop of mountain scenery, and, on its approach side, an incomparable view to the River Derwent and hills beyond.

The foundation date was May 13, 1945, fulfilling what had been the dream of both Archbishop Tweedy and his predecessor Archbishop Barry, who too, had long seen the need for a home for senior orphans and needy boys. The Archbishop found three Sacred Heart Missionaries willing to run the home, The missionaries, Father Paul Diedrichs, and Brothers John and Bernard, had been stranded here during the war. When they were able to return to their New Guinea Mission Station late in 1946 after their most valuable work in founding the St. John's Boys' Home - better known as Boys' Town - Archbishop Tweedy then invited the Salesians to take over. He found Father Joseph Ciantar, at that time Salesian Provincial Delegate in Australia, willing to continue the work.

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## FIRST SALESIANS

As a result Fathers John Brennan and Francis Drohan arrived in Hobart November 29, 1946, and official handing over took place on December 8, Our Lady's Feast Day, and, the anniversary of the day and month on which St. John Bosco commenced his apostolate for youth. On the same day eight of the boys made their First Communion with children of the neighbouring parish of Moonah. In the afternoon a few friends joined the Salesians in a concert, and later on Benediction was celebrated, the first ever in Boys' Town. Some friends had helped to provide the altar furnishings for the beautiful little chapel.

The original residence on the property, known as the White House and reminiscent of a picture postcard Swiss dwelling with white walls and red, high, gabled roofs (it is still part of the Savio picture), consisted of nine rooms with accommodation for twelve boys. Army huts, relics of the war just ended, were erected to provide more dormitory accommodation a dining room, and a chapel, for the twenty seven inhabitants of Boys' Town. The boys, most of them from broken homes, but none there because of delinquency, ranged in age from 9 to about 16 years.

The Boys' Town property, more of a farm than anything else, was assisted by the Agricultural Department which supplied plants and seeds. The community in time was expected to become self-supporting, but specialised in vegetable and poultry farming. Dr. Tom Gaha was the honorary doctor. The Mayor was sixteen-year-old Bill Featherstone. In addition to being captain of the cricket team Bill was troop leader of the three patrols of the Boys' Town scouts. Mr. James of Glenorchy was scoutmaster.

After his arrival on December 8 Father Brennan wasted no time in deliberating on the future accommodation prospects of Boys' Town, and on the very next day conferred with a Hobart architect, Mr. Harry Hope, to discuss a new building to accommodate 100 boys.

In the year of foundation the boys went out to school, the younger ones to the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Therese Convent school, Moonah, the older ones to St. Peter's, the Christian Brothers primary school in Hobart, but after the Salesians took over school was conducted on the premises, and classes commenced there on February 7 1947. Everything was now getting into full swing and reading through the house chronicles one gets the picture of a growing young rural community. Brother killed a pig, new chickens arrived, five in one month! People were very kind to the boys. The Catholic Womens' Guild of Moonah mended their clothes once a month and gave the boys a Christmas party each year. Many other people and organisations gave generously of their time and money in entertaining the boys with musical evenings, having them visit their homes. Sporting clubs and theatre managers invited them to their premises. One lady visited Boys' Town at regular intervals and taught the Boys Scottish dancing. It would not be fair to single out any name or names from the many that gave so much to the boys.

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BOYS' TOWN EXPANSION

Meanwhile Father Brennan's building plans were being fulfilled, and on November 1, 1951, the new red brick structure comprising classrooms, offices, chapel, and assembly hall with concert stage on the ground floor, dormitories and staff bedrooms on the first floor as well as in the tower, was blessed by Archbishop Tweedy, and solemnly opened on November 4. Two thousand people attended the opening, among three Bishops, the Governor, the Premier, Cabinet Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition members of the State Parliament, the Federal Government and the Immigration Department, the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Mr. Harry Hope, the architect, who had drawn the plans in an honorary capacity, Mr. Charlie Dunn the builder, and many other prominent personages and wellwishers including representatives of sporting clubs and committees trotting and greyhound racing clubs, bookmakers, theatre managers, commercial radio broadcasting stations, and, indeed, from every walk of life. An honour board in the foyer still commemorates the many generous foundation members whose donation was not less than \$100. Scores of others were no less generous to the best of their ability and there can be little doubt that their names, too, are recorded in the Golden Book at Heaven's Portals. In response to a call from the Commonwealth Government to assist Australia's post-war immigration programme Archbishop Tweedy to the Department of Immigration the use of a certain amount of accommodation at St. John Bosco Boys' Home, which was the official name of Boys' Town. The first ten migrant boys arrived on June 6, 1952; another batch of 29 on September 27. They hailed from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Their arrival inspired Fr. Brennan to launch a "Big Sister" movement. He wished to see a Catholic woman in Tasmania to adopt each one of the boys, and act as a big Sister towards him. She would write to him, visit him from time to time, and have him at her home for vacations. Like so many of Father Brennan's schemes this, too, was a success, as, in fact, every boy got a Big Sister, and many of them have kept up their contacts to this date. And many of these boys, now in their adult life have exemplified their loyalty to their Alma Mater by their formation of an Old Boys' Association held by the school.

After six years of wonderfully fruitful apostolate Father John Brennan was transferred to Victoria on January 31, 1953. Father William Cole took his place as Rector. In the ensuing years we are to see the remarkably rapid growth of a school that had its origin in the pastoral desire to provide a home and training for the less fortunate boys who were denied these natural amenities of life, and whose future prospects of attaining the normal ideals of manhood might otherwise have been somewhat obscure. Like the frames of a motion picture film we should see unrolling various features of the school's structural scholastic and spiritual development and expansion, characterised in one way and another by the differing ideas and talents of successive Rectors, commonly imbued, nevertheless, with the warmhearted and cheerful guidelines laid down by their Society's illustrious founder Don Bosco.

To be continued next edition.

# HISTORY OF SAVIO COLLEGE (CONT)

## DAY PUPILS AT GLENORCHY

In 1956 the first dayboys were admitted to the school. As well as admitting dayboys Father Cole also provided some accommodation for boarders whose homes were too distant from the school for daily commuting. Fees were established and Archbishop Guildford Young, who had now succeeded Archbishop Tweedy approved a change in the name of the school to Savio College. This was to prove an historic and significant change.

On February 2, 1957, Father John Neale took over the Rectorship from Father Cole. Fr. Neale, who died in October this year, was renowned for his eagerness for enlisting Cooperators for the educative mission of the Salesians, and seeing that the enrolment of dayboys had grown to eighty in 1957 he thought the time opportune to establish a Parent's and Friends' Association of the school. On July 28, 1957, the inaugural meeting was held, and from the large crowd of enthusiastic helpers present an energetic first committee was elected with Mrs. Kathleen Wicks, O.B.E., as President. The late Mrs. Wicks was a prominent welfare worker in the city, and in addition to the many civic tasks that earned her a royal decoration, had worked untiringly for the school from its inception. The committee set itself a target to erect four new classrooms, a science laboratory, music rooms, and a shelter shed.

A highlight of 1957 was the opening on November 24, by the Archbishop, Most Rev. Guildford Young, D.D., of the new chapel provided by the generosity of the late Archpriest Patrick Hayes of Burnie, on the North West Coast, who, as it reads on a plaque in the chapel porch "had left money that this chapel might be built". After the dedication His Grace traced the history of the Boys' Home and developed the reasons that had induced the change of the name to Savio College. It was his desire to help in the elevating of migrant boys, the orphaned and needy boys, to full social equality with the more fortunate boys of the State by officially proclaiming St. Dominic Savio the patron of all schoolboys in the archdiocese. As well as the change of name the Salesians, together with the Archbishop, had decided to break down the isolation of the boys at the Home by bringing in other boys from more fortunate homes to study side by side with them. The Archbishop commented that Tasmanian

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"TO WISH YOU THE BLESSINGS OF A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR."

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parents had responded magnificently to this call. Stimulating words were also spoken by Dr. B. Gallagher, Bishop of Port Pirie, as well as by the State Premier, Hon. Robert Cosgrove, and others.

The British Government had discontinued the sending of boy migrants after 1952, and Michael Daley, the last of them, left the school on July 1, 1959 to seek outside employment. This marked the end of another stage in the school's development.

#### THE YEARS OF GROWTH

Meanwhile the Parents' & Friends' first project - the building of a shelter shed - was commenced under the watchful eye of Brother Newport, the technical master, and in 1959 three new classrooms were got under way. To provide accommodation for another 150 students these classrooms were blessed and officially opened by the Archbishop on November 1, 1959. In April of the same year another significant stage had been reached when the school was granted secondary registration by the State Education Department.

The years of Father Neale's rectorship marked a transition in the whole aspect of the school's forward march to academic and collegiate status. Whatever the future was to hold the results of his imaginative administration would stand to him as a memorial in the history of the school.

Father Neale left Glenorchy on January 21, 1960, when Father Adrian Papworth took over as Rector. The year began with 46 boarders and some three hundred day students. Woodwork, technical drawing, and biology were added to the curriculum. These subjects proved of great benefit to a good number of students who were less academically inclined.

Early in his rectorship Father Papworth arranged with Mr. G. J. Browning of Melbourne to undertake the work of creating in colour the Stations of the Cross on silk screen for affixing to each of the fourteen windows of the chapel. Mr. Browning is a Display Officer at the Melbourne Museum. A Presbyterian by faith he had shown the Salesians his talent for religious art some years earlier when he painted the Stations in colour directly on to the smaller windows in the chapel of what was then the Archbishop Mannix Missionary College, and is now the Provincial House and Theologate at Oakleigh, Victoria. In his new found contract he produced the almost lifesized pictures of the Via Dolorosa at his home by a silk screen method, done in vividly contrasting colours, and brought them three or four at a time to Glenorchy where he affixed them with a special adhesive to the chapel windows.

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"YOU ARE TO CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU MUST NAME HIM JESUS."

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during the past ten years they have stood there a colourful feature of this beautiful Chapel. The chapel itself is of a simple and lovely architectural design with that interior that kindles somehow, but known to us all, an immediate devotional feeling, and which has been no less enhanced by these graphical images of Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross.

The writer has a special association with the chapel, inasmuch as he was the Master of Ceremonies at the public opening after the blessing and dedication by His Grace, Archbishop Young, in November, 1957; in the same month seven years later the first ever marriage there was solemnized with Nuptial Mass when he "gave away" his sister, Miss Rita Fox - an erstwhile pianoforte teacher at the College - to Dr. John Fergus Brown; and on December 8 in this year of grace he will, God willing, have been present at the first Mass celebrated by his son, Julian, in the chapel of his Alma Mater (he commenced school there on January 31, 1956, the Feast Day of Don Bosco!) after his ordination to the Priesthood on the previous day at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. The writer could not be otherwise than proud of the fact that his only son is the first Tasmanian born student of Savio College to become a priest in the Society of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and that his ordination coincides with the Jubilee Year of his boyhood College.

In the second year of Father Papworth's rectorship two other highlights were the conversion of a dormitory to a science laboratory, made possible by a grant from the Commonwealth, and the purchase of an historic old stone building at Swansea for use as a Summer Camp. The building, known as "Schouten House", is over one hundred years old and was once a coaching inn and brewed its own beer! Swansea, situated on Tasmania's own sunshine (east) coast, is just over 80 miles from Hobart, and the Holiday Camp caters for about 30 boys at a time. It is a most popular venue, and only this year is adding further to its lustre by becoming a week-end oratory of spiritual retreat for the students of Savio, and sometimes, too, of Holy Name Colleges. This is due in full measure to the vision and work of the College Rector and Vice-Rector, Frs E Proietto and F B Freeman, in the first place, and to the willing work and help of a bank of Co-operators and senior boys and girls in the second place. 1965 saw the building of the first Tuck-shop at Savio College, and in the same year land and buildings known as the Mill Lane property, more than 1½ miles from the College and near the Main Road at Glenorchy was purchased by the Salesians for the erection of a Primary School. Work was begun on the site immediately.

(To be continued in the next edition.)

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GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND PEACE TO MEN WHO ENJOY HIS FAVOUR"

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CONTINUING OUR ARTICLE ON THE COLLEGE:

A new change in administration took place in January, 1966, after the prescribed six years of rectorship, a productive tenure upon which Fr Papworth could look back with a sense of great satisfaction, and he was succeeded by Fr. Kevin O'Leary. These were to be vintage years of scholastic and general college development and progress. In June of his first year the Primary School was blessed and opened by Archbishop Young in the presence of a large and representative crowd. The Archbishop made a stirring appeal for better recognition of and proper justice and aid for Catholic education in our State. It was, perhaps, the beginning of the era that was to see at least some fruitful outcome of this mighty protagonist's and his fellow Bishops' incessant pleadings throughout the Commonwealth.

On June 21, 1966, the Primary school got under way with an enrolment of 160 boys in primary grades IV, V, and VI. Father Elio Proietto was the Headmaster. He had hitherto been Prefect of Studies from 1961 up at the 'big school', from whence, too, the 16½ boys had shifted. The Primary School, separated as it is from the college, has been virtually a separate entity, although always under the jurisdiction of the Rector. Contact is maintained with the College on special days, usually at the end of each term on which the boys from the Primary School mix with the seniors. House sports are also held together. The present enrolment is 135 pupils, with three full time teachers, two Salesians and one female lay teacher.

The building comprises three classrooms, a library, staff rooms, and an ablution block. Nearby an old brick and stone building, affectionally called the barn contributes admirably to the Boys' amenities with its table tennis room one end, a tuck shop on the other, and a lunch room in the middle. Outside playing space is ample and the boys tear around to their hearts content. Recently a large section of the yard was asphalted with the financial assistance of the P&F Association.

Fr. Michael Jackson, the current Headmaster, to whom I am indebted for this vignette, also mentions that apart from scholastic activities the majority of the boys play sports which include athletics, cricket, football, hockey, soccer and table tennis and in competitive fields have acquitted themselves with great credit. Many of these small boys have spontaneously helped in fund raising for the missions and local charitable appeals with gratifying results.

With the opening of the Primary School Father O'Leary was able to see daylight in his plans for increasing the academic standard of the College, and in the same year we saw the first Matriculation Class at Savio. In the next year, 1967, following a sequence of discussions between the superiors of the Salesian Society and Dominican Sisters - who had some years before accepted the charge of the Holy Name Secondary School for girls - Savio and Holy Name were co-educational at Matriculation class level. Sister Pamela Davis O.P. was the Principal of the Holy Name school and, in fact, still is 10 years after the first coming of the Dominicans to Glenorchy. Like Father O'Leary at Savio she has worked with dedication and success for the betterment of Holy Name. Erudite and attractive in her white habit she is also the efficient and popular Secretary of the Tasmanian Independent Schools Headmasters' & Headmistresses Association. Sister Pamela has willingly responded to my request for an article on this co-educational set-up so I can do no better than let her take up the story right here, nor could I not agree more with what she has to say.

"CO-EDUCATION - A FORWARD STEP."

During the term of Father O'Leary's office there were many significant advances in the field of education. The introduction of Matriculation classes in 1966 gave the College the promise of success in the academic field.

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In 1967 it was clear that there was a possibility of an educational complex for the Glenorchy area at matriculation level. Accordingly Father initiated the Savio-Holy Name Higher School Certificate class which is in operation today. The scheme was introduced with the help of Dominican Sisters who conduct Holy Name, the school for girls in Glenorchy. The class was established on a year-by-year development programme commencing in 1967 with the exchange of certain subjects, and became a fully integrated class in 1969. The numbers involved, averaging about 75 per year, have proved the success of the venture. The class was never intended to cater for those of matriculation standard, but was designed for all those who desire to improve their education beyond the fourth year level. The accent on the personal formation of the students is in keeping with the well established traditions of the Orders involved.

An outstanding feature of Father O'Leary's rectorship has been the contribution made by the College through him to all matters educational. His has been a loud voice in the defence of Catholic schools, and also in the defence of Catholic education at the higher level. His influence in the field has led to his appointment to the Catholic Education Office in Hobart where his dedication as a Salesian should make a valuable contribution to Catholic education as a whole.

The success of the Higher School Certificate complex has given the confidence necessary for the establishment of a co-educational secondary school in Glenorchy. There is no doubt that the leadership given by Father O'Leary has contributed in no small way to the Catholic education in Glenorchy.

In 1969 Savio College was admitted to membership of the Independent Schools in Tasmania, climaxing in a relatively short span of years a giant step forward in its march to higher academic, social and sporting status. Another important event pointing to the recognition of Savio's step up the academic ladder, and a compliment to Father O'Leary's part in it was his appointment to the Schools Board of Tasmania on the 15th December, 1970. I should of mentioned too, in my thumbnail sketch of Sister Pamela that she also has given distinction to Glenorchy Catholic co-education since she is a member of the Examination Committee of the Schools Board.

In 1970, the second last year of Father O'Leary's rectorship, a new science block of classrooms and associated offices was commenced and the building was sufficiently completed for class occupation when tuition was resumed in February, 1971. The building was made possible by a Commonwealth grant for the greater proportion of its cost, and on April, 4th, 1971, after the blessing by His Grace, Archbishop Young, it was officially opened before a large crowd by Mr. E. D. Gardiner, Chairman of the Science Facilities Advisory Committee. The building site adjoins the three classrooms on the western side of the quadrangle, and opportunity was taken to incorporate a new wood-work shop underneath the science building which was constructed on the same level as the existing classrooms. This new workshop was a great improvement on the old one that had been located in one of the original huts obtained for use when Boys' Town first started in 1945. A classroom of prefabricated aluminium sheeting was also erected during the 1970-71 Christmas-New Year vacation on a site behind the science block and western classrooms, and this known as the Creative Work Centre where teachers take classes in various spheres of art, was also included in the blessing and official opening.

Whilst so much importance must be attached to the multiple achievements of the succession of College Rectors as narrated to date it would be improper not to mention the acumen and vision of the men responsible for their appointments.

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The Australian Salesian Province in general, and Savio College in particular has, indeed, been fortunate in this regard and one cannot praise too highly the administrative skill shown by these men holding the responsible post of Provincial Delegate as it was when Father Ciantar appointed Fr. Brennan the first Rector, and subsequently that of Australian Provincial occupied with conspicuous success by the later Father Bortolo Fedrigotti from 1958 to 1964 to 1969. The present Provincial, Father Terence Jennings, has shown the same dedication and discernment as those others mentioned.

#### DOMINIC COLLEGE GLENORCHY

The golden years that marked Father O'Leary's rectorship ended in 1971, and now this very first year of his successor, Father Elio Proietto, who has been returned to us to undertake the highest office of the College, great things are afoot. Next year, 1973, will see the complete amalgamation of the Glenorchy Catholic schools, ie. Savio, Holy Name and the Primary Schools, Savio and St. Johns as a fully co-educational complex from top to bottom. The principal administration will derive from the Salesians, but they will have a very effective backstop as the Dominican Sisters with Sister Mary Vincent and Sister Pameal Davis still at the helm of this highly experienced group, have happily decided to continue their teaching in the new composite arrangement to be known as Dominic College.

So what of the future I don't know! My present task is to relate the story of Savio College's first twenty five years. As a consequence of the amalgamation and integration, Savio College as such will lose its identity, which is a sad thought, but perhaps that is a selfish point of view. Preliminary soundings and some meetings of parents and friends of both schools have shown a generally favourable reaction to the concept. No doubt some teething troubles and problems will arise, most of them generated by the inevitable knockers anyhow, but the idea of co-education seems to be gaining some momentum every day, and our show could not be in better hands, or at a better location. Nevertheless, I hope that the Religious Superiors in the mainland centres will focus their best attentions on what I believe to be one of the most important decisions in the education field throughout the Australia Provinces of both the Congregations involved.

The Story of Savio College would not be complete without mention of other features, activities and people. Apart from the Salesians, these have contributed so much to the development and prestige of the school. And there are so many of these things that should be featured in detail in common appreciation of the contribution. Things like the magnificent efforts of the Parents' & Friends' Association in a long line of provision of amenities and facilities of countless number and value; the almost worshipping efforts of the Tasmanian Salesian Old Boys' Association in their thanks and appreciation for what was done for them in their good old schooldays; outstanding achievements in most branches of sport on land and water; an outstanding academic accomplishments of students. For almost seventeen of the school's twenty five years of growth the writer has had more or less close association with it, and in that time the categories mentioned conjure up a wealth of names that I dare not mention because of the fear of leaving some one out.

The readers will join with me in congratulating all those good Salesians and their helpers who, throughout twenty five years of work and play, of tears and joy, have contributed so much to this grand school Savio College we salute you!

BASIL FOX.

14th March, 1976.

# DOMINICAN SISTERS ARRIVE IN GLENORCHY

(This account compiled by Sister Kathleen, includes extracts from the Standard and snippets from the Archives at Holy Name Convent.

25th January, 1959. On Sunday afternoon, three Dominican Sisters arrived in Hobart to found their first Convent in Tasmania, and to take over St. John's School, Glenorchy. They were met by the Parish Priest of Glenorchy, Very Rev. J. C. Wallis, and a large number of Glenorchy parishioners who drove to the aerodrome to welcome them.

Their names are Sister M. Damian Hunt (Prioress), Sister M. Calistine Shorten and Sister M. Clare Murray. On arriving at St. John's Church Glenorchy another crowd waited to greet them. Letters and telegrams of welcome and gifts from other convents throughout Tasmania awaited them at their destination. They were guests of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary at Calvery Hospital until they moved into 30 Regina Street, Glenorchy, where they remained until the Convent was completed. Sister M. Damian wrote: "Because of our isolation and our living in a Presbytery we were given permission for the privilege of ong drives around the Island State .... Letters and gifts from our Sisters on the mainland were a source of great pleasure to us."

Enrolments were made in Grades I, II and III and one hundred and four pupils presented themselves. "Now we were happy and keenly seeking help with the syllabus for Primary Grades in the State of Tasmania. Mr. Swift, Headmaster at Glenorchy state, Miss Mollie Burton, Headmistress of the Infants' Department, Mr. Lond, Deputy Director of Education as well as Sister M. Francis and other Presentation Sisters came to our aid. During June, the Sisters were examined by Mr. G. Lewis, Director of Primary Education in Tasmania, and were given a certificate of Fitness to Teach.

At the close of the second term the Sisters moved into their newly built Convent. One of them writes: "We had been very happy and comfortable at the Presbytery, but considering the inconvenience it caused Fathers Wallis and Donnelly, it was with relief that we vacated it. We can never be grateful enough to these Priests who lived in rooms attached to the two Churches in the Parish in very primitive conditions and who never failed to see that we always had the best. God bless them and reward their great charity." The school was inspected by the District Inspector, Mr. Overton, who reported encouragingly on the work done by the Sisters. On 3rd October, 1959 thirty of the pupils received their first Holy Communion. This brought the Sisters a sense of satisfaction and sharing in the building up of the Church in this tiny corner.

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HAPPINESS IS A MYSTERY LIKE RELIGION, AND SHOULD NEVER BE RATIONALIZED.

G.K. CHESTERTON.

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NO ANIMAL EVER INVENTED ANYTHING SO BAD AS DRUNKEDNESS

- OR SO GOOD AS DRINK.

G.K. CHESTERTON.

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## THE COMING OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS TO GLENORCHY

## PART 2

March 11th 1960 was heralded as a "day of Joy" for the people of Glenorchy, by the then Parish Priest of Glenorchy, as on that day His Grace Archbishop Young blessed and opened both Holy Name Convent and St. John's School. His Grace traced the development of Glenorchy's over expanding parish. In His speech he said: "The Dominican Sisters are a teaching Order with a wealth of tradition going back for six hundred years, and with international connections that ensure a flow of ideas from most of the great nations of the world." He then went on to say that it was a blessing for Tasmania to have the O.P. Sisters, for there was a real need for teachers with high ideals and dedicated love for their pupils.

The enrolment at the parish school increased rapidly and one by one the Community did likewise. In 1961 Sr. M. Paul Francis came to reside at Holy Name Convent but went each day to Calvary Hospital where she did a course in obstetrics. After having served three years in the Missions in the Solomon Islands, labouring under very trying conditions, Sister returned better equipped to carry on her work in the hospital there. In her exams Sister gained first place in the state and the Florence Nightingale Special Award for Nursing.

In 1962 Sr. M. Gerard arrived to take charge of the newly formed Holy Name School for Secondary girls. These classes took place in the remodelled Barn which was bright, attractive and comfortable. When the University lecturers Mr. Chapel and Mr. Perkins visited Holy Name for the purpose of observing Sr. M. Gerard's lessons, they were so favourably impressed that they asked if Sister could have all the University IIB Students out to get the feel of an Independent School. Incidentally, Sr. M. Gerard succeeded in gaining her Diploma of Education with two Distinctions and one High Distinction. that year also, the first properly organised School Sports Day was held.

Holy Rosary School, Claremont was opened and the Dominican Sisters staffed it for fifteen years. This year (1976) the Sisters withdrew and it is now fully staffed by a very dedicated lay staff. There is a Dominican Sister working full time in the Claremont Parish as a Religious Co-ordinator.

1973 saw the amalgamation of Holy Name, Savio and St. John's into one complex known as Dominic College. I shall leave this phase of Educational Development in the hands of some future historian.