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**THE 4 CONGREGATIONS  
FOUNDED BY CONSTANT VAN CROMBRUGGHE  
MEET AGAIN.**

**Melle Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>.**



Ever since 1989 the 4 congregations founded by Canon Van Crombrugge have met together at regular intervals to celebrate their common spirit and to support and encourage one another.

Numbers have dwindled a little over the years but this year over 90 members of the 4 congregations gathered together in College Melle. Sister Linda the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph had come from Rome to be present and join with Sister Marie Rose, Superior General of the Sisters of St Joseph, Sr Marie Augustine Superior

of the Sisters of Mary and Joseph and Fr. Robert from the Josephites.



**College Melle.** College Melle was taken over by the Josephites in 1837. The Founder was living in Ghent and therefore was able to keep a close eye on the development of the college over more than 25 years.

The fact that we were able to meet together in rooms where the Founder himself had met with the Josephites added to the sense of occasion.



**The Eucharist.** The sung Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Paul Janssens surrounded by his Josephite confreres. He also who preached the homily. It was a time to thank God for all that had been achieved by those who had gone before us; to ask God for his blessing on our work today and on the work of our lay colleagues.



**A festive meal.** After an aperitif in the Grand Salon under the watchful eye of the Founder in the magnificent painting of him, we went into the school dining hall for a splendid festive meal. However there was a long pause between each course which enabled everyone to visit the adjoining dinning room and enjoy the various audio visual presentations.



**A triumph of modern technology.** Fr Paul had set up three television screens and offered a selection of audio visual entertainment. On one screen the DVD of the celebration of the centenary of the Chapel on the Old Mountain was shown. Another showed the power point presentation on the pedagogical spirit of the Founder which was very much the work of Fr. Martin Ashcroft. A third screen presented a collection of photos taken during recent meetings and events. The photos of the Symposium held several years ago in England were very popular.



**Honey.** Melle is of course connected with honey. “On y revient toujours” refers to the bees returning to their hive as well as Ancients Mellists return to their college. It was therefore very appropriate that Fr. Berchmans gave a conducted tour of his hives and his honey production plant.



**The Museum.** There was also an opportunity to enjoy a conducted tour of the College museum with its array of interesting artefacts.

**A final sing song.** While we were all enjoying coffee and chocolates, Fr. Raymond distributed a small song book and led us all in a communal sing song. It was a wonderful way to end a most enjoyable day.

A final word of thanks. Sr. Marie Rose and Sr. Agnes thanked Fr Paul for all his hard work and the careful planning which had made the day so enjoyable. Everyone left looking forward to the next reunion.

R.D.H.  
Weybridge  
15.09.08



Thanks to sister Emma and father Martin for the photos. See for more photos at:  
Merci à la sœur Emma et au père Martin pour les photos. Voir d'autres photos:  
<http://picasaweb.google.be/cjphotobank>