

# Grail Movement in Australia

## Foundation at "Loyola," Greenwich

### WORK BEGINS IMMEDIATELY

**T**HE Grail is the response of Catholic girls and young women in the world to the Holy Father's call to the lay apostolate of Catholic Action. It is a pro-God Movement seeking to unite the Catholic young women of every rank and occupation into that vast army that the Pope has called upon to fight the cause of God.

The Grail Movement started in Amsterdam in 1929, when Bishop Aengenent, of the diocese of Haarlem, in Holland, gave the Society of the Women of Nazareth (founded in 1922) the task of organising the young women of his diocese. From Amsterdam the movement spread to all the different cities and villages of Holland.

Why is the Grail necessary? We are living in the time of terrible crisis; there are only two camps: one pro-God, the other anti-God. The rulers

of various nations to-day realise that it is of the utmost importance to organise young people in order to make them work for their ideals.

Never before has there been such a complete and determined campaign on all sides to capture the souls of the young and to use them for a definite cause. The world to-day is the battle ground of youth. The Catholic Church has always devoted special attention to the education of the young, but the modern age has seen a development and an intensification of this programme. A very large part of the work of Catholic Action is devoted to the training and the organisation of Catholic Youth movements—a measure of vital import in view of the great

one youth movements—a measure of vital import in view of the great strength of the forces arrayed against the Church. So in April, 1936, the Grail Movement was officially approved by the Holy Father, and Mgr. Pizzardo, to whom the responsibility of the organisation of Catholic Action has been entrusted, ratified the rules and institutions of the movement.

### THE GRAIL COMES TO AUSTRALIA.

In 1932 the Grail was officially invited by Bishop Schreiber, of Berlin, to establish there and to spread to all the university towns in Germany. In the same year 200 Dutch Grail members went to Dublin to the Eucharistic Congress, where Cardinal Bourne met them, and, realising the potentialities that lay in a modern youth movement among Catholic girls, invited the Grail to start work in London and throughout his Archdiocese. Since then the Grail has spread from there to Scotland, where Grail centres have been formed in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Australian Bishops who were present at the Dublin Congress made their first acquaintance there with the Grail Movement. To them it seemed

most suited for the organisation of our Catholic young women in Australia. Accepting an invitation, extended through the Bishop of Wagga, the Grail has come to Australia. Five members, under the leadership of Dr. L. van Kersbergen, arrived here towards the close of last year to join in the work of the Apostolate of Catholic Action.

### THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE.

To provide a suitable residence and centre of operations in accordance with

centre of operations in accordance with the command of his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, the following Establishment Committee was appointed:

Patron, the Countess Eileen Freehill, L.C.; president, Right Rev. Mgr. T. J. King, P.P., O.B.E.; chairman of finance committee, Right Rev. Mgr. J. Meany, P.P.; secretary, Rev. William P. Clark; the Hon. Mr. Justice McTiernan, B.A., LL.B., Papal Chamberlain; T. J. Hartigan, Esq., C.M.G., Commissioner for Railways; P. Kearns, Esq., Commissioner, Rural Bank of N.S.W.; Jack F. Hennessy, K.S.S., B.Sc.A., F.R.S.A. (Lond.), F.R.I.B.A., F.R.A.I.A., A.M.I.E.; Walter Burfitt, Esq., B.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.M., F.R.A.C.S.; E. P. Hollingdale, K.C.S.G.; M. J. O'Neill, K.C.S.G.; T. J. Purcell, Esq.; John Gould, Esq., B.A., LL.B.; H. H. Nowland, Esq., M.B.; Dame Constance D'Arcy, D.B.E., Councillor of Sancta Sophia College; Miss K. Egan, B.M., M.B.E., president of the Catholic Women's Association of New South Wales, Councillor of Sancta Sophia College; Miss Miller and Miss Nelson, representatives of the Theresian Club; Mrs. Walter Burfitt, Councillor of Sancta Sophia College; Mrs. W. J. Spruson, Councillor of Sancta Sophia College; Mrs. Neal Collins, Miss Molly Hollingdale, Dr. Agnes McFadden, the Misses B. and H. Lane-Mullins.

#### THE INAUGURAL MEETING.

The inaugural meeting of the Establishment Committee then took place, and the Right Rev. Mgr. King in his opening address to the committee said:

"My first word is one of recognition of the kindly action of the Catholic Women's Association in placing at our disposal this room in which to commence the important work which has been entrusted to us, and I would ask Miss Egan, the president of the Catholic Women's Association, to convey this message of thanks to the executive and members of her association.

"We are assembled here at

members of her association.

"We are assembled here this evening at the express instruction of his

Excellency the Apostolic Delegate and of his Grace the Archbishop, who are so anxiously intent upon the establishing of the Grail in Sydney, and of providing them with a suitable place which will be approved of by the Holy See as adequate for the foundation here of this vital institute in our midst. Therefore, Episcopal authority, with the definite co-operation, in such regard, by the representative of the Holy See in Australia, are our guiding forces in meeting here this evening, by command, and to you all, ladies and gentlemen, and to Countess Freehill for her gracious patronage, I convey the personal thanks of his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate and of the venerable Archbishop of Sydney for your loyal, immediate and cheerful acceptance of the Hierarchy's invitation.

"This evening there shall be sounded in this room, and by yourselves, a clear call which will re-echo in Australia the message of his Holiness in the famous letter to Cardinal Bertram, Archbishop of Breslau, on March 8, 1929.

"'Catholic Action,' wrote his Holiness, 'consists not merely of the pursuit of personal Christian perfection, which is, however, before all others its first and greatest end, but it also consists of a true apostolate in which Catholics of every social class participate, coming thus to be united in thought and action around those centres of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted, and, as a result, aided and sustained by the authority of the Bishops.'

"These burning words were flung like brands amongst the Catholic people of America by its able organisation, 'The National Catholic Welfare Conference,' and its press organisation was the medium which was so capably employed in the work. Now, that message summons us face to face with the

played in the work. Now, that message summons us face to face with the Grail Movement—a centre of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted, and as a result aided and sustained by the authority of the Bishops; and to-night, without a doubt by our obedience to the summons, there shall be set in motion a work which shall change the destiny of many who, answering the call of Divine Grace, will come under the sway of the Grail in Australia. In this great work you and I are privileged to be of the number who are to be its pioneers in our country, and, personally, I look into the immediate future with a heart filled with confidence that a 'White Harvest' awaits the work of the Grail for our young women in Australia.

"The way to that successful issue the Ladies of the Grail have in their gentle, cultured and holy keeping. It is this: 'the basic purpose of all their social work is the change of habits and of attitudes towards life's responsibilities upon all whom they will draw under their guiding influence. This change will be effected by a definite plan of life; and a definite plan of life, based

upon the practice of the principles of religion, will be given to those who will seek their aid and influence."

"The Grail's work, therefore, is an immediate and practical answer to the summons of our illustrious Pontiff. As such we regard it—as such we loyally accept it.

"May God speed on their way the Ladies of the Grail, and may our love of God and of our neighbour guide us in assisting them in their glorious Apostolate under the sign of the Southern Cross."

Dr. L. van Kersbergen, leader of the Grail, addressed the meeting relative to work of the Grail Movement in Australia, and at the conclusion of the Grail leader's address, Dame Constance D'Arcy, in a telling speech, exhorted

D'Arcy, in a telling speech, exhorted all to co-operate in every detail for a successful establishment of the Grail in our midst.

#### **PURCHASE OF "LOYOLA."**

At the subsequent general meeting of the Establishment Committee the report of a finance sub-committee advising the purchase of "Loyola," Greenwich, was unanimously adopted, and the purchase contract was signed.

"Loyola" is a magnificent residence, standing well within its own grounds of seven acres, laid out in gardens, tennis courts, and large sports oval. It stands at the corner of River and Greenwich roads. It is only four miles from the G.P.O., yet it is 220 feet above sea level. A motor 'bus service passes the gates, and the distance from tram and train is under five minutes. The building is in good order and condition, having been faithfully built of brick on massive stone foundation; it has a slate roof and contains more than forty rooms.

#### **WORK TO COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY.**

During the past few Sundays, through the courtesy of Mgr. Meany, the Grail leader, Dr. L. van Kersbergen, has given through Station 2SM a series of talks on the Grail Movement, its activities and its plans for Australia. Everything now is in readiness for the work to commence, and this week the Ladies of the Grail will enter into residence at "Loyola." From every part of Australia have come messages of goodwill and promises of enthusiastic co-operation.





**THE GRAIL LADIES OF NAZARETH, PHOTOGRAPHED AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MANLY, WITH HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP.**  
Miss Bridget Housinga, Dr. Van Kersbergen, Litt.D., Ph.D.; Most Rev. M. Kelly, D.D. (Archbishop of Sydney); Miss Judith Baumann, Miss Patricia Willenborg, Miss Frances van der Schot.





**"LOYOLA," GREENWICH, SYDNEY, HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAIL WOMEN OF NAZARETH.**