



# Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

[www.foba.fatima.edu.tt](http://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt)

## This issue

*A brief History  
of Fatima College  
- (continued)*

*The past Principals  
of Fatima College  
- (continued)*

*Salt and  
Pepper VIII*

*Tribute to  
Mr. Glen Roach*

*What's happening  
in Sports*

*Teachers who left*

*Flashback page*



## *A brief History of Fatima College*

*Continued from Issue 1 - Sept. 08*

Legally, a new Holy Ghost educational foundation in Trinidad could not be set up without the permission of the Superior General in Paris. However, the Second World War was still being fought and communication with Paris was impossible. Preliminary steps to set up the school were taken without authorization from Paris. The Archbishop was insistent that it be a completely Catholic school as regards both staff and students. Dr. Meenan commissioned Father John E. Byrne, bursar of St. Mary's College, to build and staff the new college.

In October 1944 an application for the establishment of a secondary school was sent to the Education Board of Trinidad. The school was to be called "College of Our Lady of Fatima". It was to be 'a Classical' Secondary School situated on

Mucurapo Pasture; a two-storey reinforced concrete building with three storey-centre block. Main building 204' x 45' approximately, besides out-buildings, eleven classrooms including laboratories; scale of fees to be charged \$16 per term, \$12 for each additional brother- the same as for St Mary's and Q.R.C. In December 1944, this application was accepted by the Board. On the 1st January 1945, the College first opened its doors on the compound of St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church on Petra Street, Woodbrook with the cooperation of Father Francis Flavin O.P., the parish priest, the staff being Father Byrne, Michael McCarthy (a prefect) and Andy Cockburn, a layman, (who became a Holy Ghost priest).

While Fr. Byrne concentrated on the new building on Mucurapo Road, Mr. Mc Carthy and Mr. Cockburn taught two Form One classes of about 30 pupils each. In February 1945, Archbishop Ryan blessed and laid the foundation stone. The school building, directed by architect, Maurice Acanne, was officially opened on

Saturday, December 1, for 119 eager pupils. Michael Anthony, in his book, Port-of-Spain in a World at War, sums up the situation: "In transforming the old Mucurapo pasture, the College changed the scene and brought a touch of elegance to a serene area of Port-of-Spain".

The College started with a curriculum embracing the Arts - French, Spanish, Latin, English, Social Studies - Geography and History, Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, and one Science subject - Biology. Religious Instruction was of course the main subject, a fact appreciated by both pupils and lay ministers.

## *Upcoming Events*

*Fatima 2009 All-Inclusive fete  
Tickets are out, \$550.  
Date: Saturday Feb 14  
Time: 5:00 -11:30 pm  
Roy Cape, Dil-E-Nadan & Traffik*



Part two of The Past Principals of Fatima College continued from Issue 1 - Sept. 08

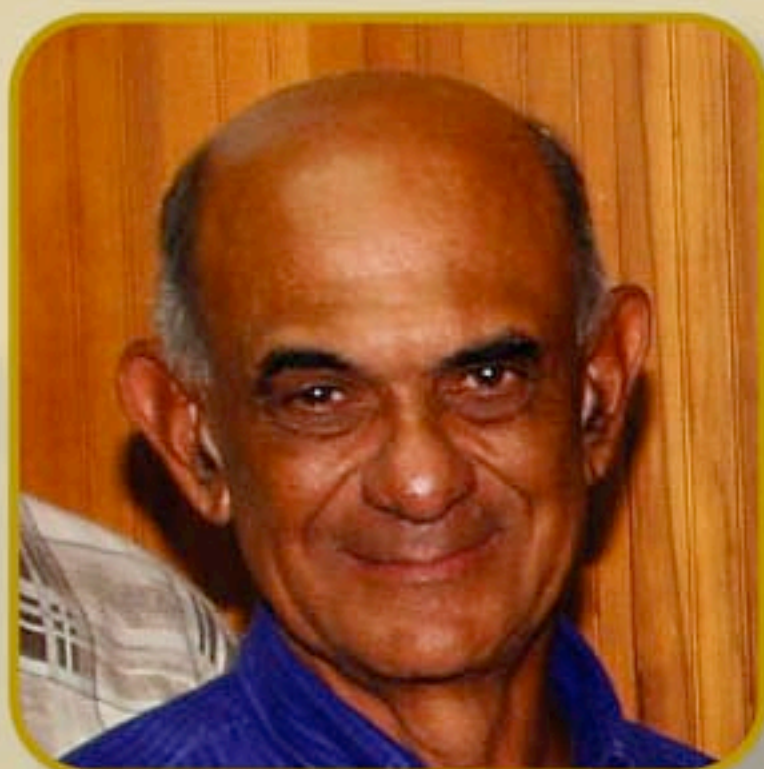


Mr. Clive Pantin 1972-1981

The first lay Principal, Mr. Pantin built with great success on the foundations laid by his predecessors. New physical structures arose and new vistas were opened up. Academic structures were so arranged as to cater to the needs of boys individually and to give them a fully all-round education.

Mr. Pantin was at Fatima since 1954 as Prefect, and during his tenure he was a History Teacher, Dean, Senior Dean, Senior Lay Master, cricket coach, football coach, Vice-Principal, Principal. Perhaps the most energetic and forceful of Fatima's five Principals and who directed the college at a very difficult time, it was during this period that Fatima emerged as a Catholic College of Trinidad, second to none.

In 1981, Mr. Pantin left Fatima in order to contest the 1981 general elections as an ONR candidate. He became the Minister of Education during rule of the NAR government.



Mr. Mervyn Moore 1981-1999

Joined the staff of Fatima College on the 19th January 1959. He attended Belmont Boys Intermediate and St. Mary's College. He received the B.A. Hon (Ext) Degree from London University and the Diploma of Education from the University of the West Indies. At Fatima he taught Geography, History, English and Religion, and in the seventies served as Dean of Forms Three, Four, Five and Six. He was appointed Vice-Principal in September 1976. Under his principalship Fatima (has) attained the highest academic honours due in great part to Mr. Moore's excellent relations with his dedicated staff. A very simple, humane individual he recognized the value of his staff and allowed them the

freedom to use their initiative. He assigned responsibility to just about every member of staff. More individuals were brought into the running of the school and every year teachers found themselves involved in various projects.

Mr. Moore retired from Fatima in December, 1999.

delightful performances from the HCL Valley Harps Steel Orchestra in addition to a Karaoke competition in which many diners/contenders were afforded the opportunity to showcase their vocal talent. Having very attractive prizes at stake, the winners of the Karaoke competition were Captain Kirk in the single-entry category as he performed his version of "Under the Boardwalk" whereas 'the Big 4' claimed the group prize with a riveting rendition of the Mighty Sparrow's "Lizard".

In spite of the many outstanding infusions of savoury flavours, no single pièce de résistance was singled out as being the best dish of the night since all of the night's chefs performed formidably with their generous servings of quality cuisine. Nevertheless, the creativity behind the naming of dishes was indeed up for competition, by which chefs Paul Pantin and John Gonsalves claimed the top prizes for their meals entitled "Wool Ewe Try My Curry" and "Lambasted in the Budget" respectively.

Many guests were also in the winners' circle as an impressive selection of door prizes were also on the agenda. Ms. Cheryl-Anne Phillips, Ms. Margaret Callender and Ms. Karen Rampersad walked away with a Blackberry mobile device, a Fitness Center Gym membership and a GPS device respectively. In another highlight, recognition was paid to Mr. Ricardo Inniss for his long-standing dedicated service to Fatima College and FOBA.

FOBA extends many thanks to all those who participated in this year's cook out and it is without a shadow of a doubt that Salt and Pepper VIII will remain a key event on everyone's calendar. Look forward to Salt

and Pepper IX in the year 2009 knowing that you will enjoy the same great food, drink and company that you have come to expect.



### Salt and Pepper VIII

With an exquisite array of international cuisine and plentiful premium drinks to accompany, the all-inclusive culinary event entitled Salt and Pepper VIII was indubitably another grand success for the Fatima Old Boys Association. Being the eighth instalment of its kind since its inception in 2001, this annual event continues to widely appease the palate of expert gastronomes and curious diners alike. Guest were treated to authentic and exotic tidbits such as "Spicy Louisiana Snapper" and "Stewed Duck in Red Wine Sauce" while local delicacies like "Old-Fashioned Gheera Pork" and "Constitutional Corn Soup" were in no way short of demand. The "à la carte" dining experience was further complemented by delicious desserts and a glass of rounded French wine to wash it all down.

In the way of entertainment, the night's events were accompanied by





## A tribute to Mr. Glen Roach



*Mr. Glen Roach*

I will never forget my first year in teaching. It was a perfect start to my career. The charismatic and indefatigable Clive Pantin was appointed the first lay principal of Fatima College. He set about his task with infectious enthusiasm. The Vice Principal, Fr. Farfan, gave us weekly lectures on teaching. He impressed me as a deeply spiritual, intelligent and creative individual. Both principal and vice principal were always in the staffroom discussing plans for the college and participating in many animated conversations and arguments.

As a young teacher, I was very impressed with the friendliness of the staff. Laughter permeated the staffroom. The atmosphere was very informal and relaxed. A genuine love for Fatima prevailed. Nearly everyday the majority of the staff went to lunch at Johnston's Restaurant on Maraval Road for the five dollar special. Graduate teachers earned almost seven hundred dollars in those days. The staff worked very hard, played football and cricket and socialized at every opportunity. I quickly adapted to the Fatima culture.

One individual really stood out for his simplicity, versatility, commitment and energy. He was Harry Ramdass. He was coach of football and cricket, taught a variety of subjects and was responsible for just about everything. He was both loved and feared by the students. We developed a very close friendship that has lasted up to this day. Ray Holman kept a close look at my work and asked many probing questions. He taught me so much about teaching Spanish. Mervyn Moore was the first to correct me whenever I did something wrong. He literally took me under his wings and guided me

throughout my first year. He was so gentle and fatherly. Francis John made sure I maintained the right balance between recreation and work.

I heard many terms during the years that defined Fatima, terms like "Fatima family", "For the good of the boys", "Service before self", "Every person is important", "A happy staff is a productive staff", "Well-rounded individuals", "By striving you shall conquer". Like a sponge I soaked in everything and used these lessons to shape my approach to teaching.

Fr. Farfan encouraged me to join the Legion of Mary, an organization that enriched me socially and spiritually. What followed was a very hectic period of visits to the House of Refuge, St. Michael's School for Boys, hikes, beach limes, games events, retreats, and trips down the islands. We really enjoyed ourselves but Fr. Farfan ensured our spiritual development remained his paramount concern. Daily Mass and recitation of the Rosary formed a vital part of all our activities.

The resignation of Clive Pantin brought out the best in the staff. We met at the home of Alloy Lee Ha and decided to take charge of Fatima. We needed to apply the lessons learnt during Mr. Pantin's tenure. We were very concerned about our examination results and resolved to improve this situation. We decided to start with Form Six and encouraged Francis John to assume the deanship. Very quickly our Advanced Level results improved by twenty percent.

On October 13, 2008 I formally ended my teaching career. However, I can never leave Fatima. The place is too precious to me. I love the organization, the people, the scenery and the view of the mountains. Once I am close to Fatima and I have some free time, I still drop by to simply relax. Fatima was never my place of work, it was my home.

I have a box of cards and letters from parents and students. I appreciate all of them. However there is one card that I cherish. It is a Father's Day card from a Fatima boy that states "You may not be my dad but you have treated me just as your son, and this I am very grateful for. Thanks for being there to guide me on the right track."

This adequately summed up my approach to teaching. I considered every Fatima boy as one of my children.



## What's happening in SPORTS

### Swimming

The Tidal Wave Aquatics eighth annual Secondary Schools' Swim Meet was held Sunday November 9, 2008 at the Joao Havelange Centre of Excellence Pool in Macoya. Propelled to victory by nine-record breaking performances, Fatima College was the only team to successfully defend their title and thereby establish itself as the top school in swimming in Trinidad and Tobago. CIC came in second and Presentation College San Fernando placed third.

Fatima totally dominated the competition as it not only won 8 out of 18 male individual awards, but was also adjudged the Best North School and Best Non-Competitive male team. Russell Ferreira of Fatima was adjudged the meet's best Non-Competitive male swimmer. Sharing in the records were national swimmer Keegan Boisson, and Non-Competitive swimmers Pablo Newallo, Russell Ferreira and Shayne Corbie.

### Football

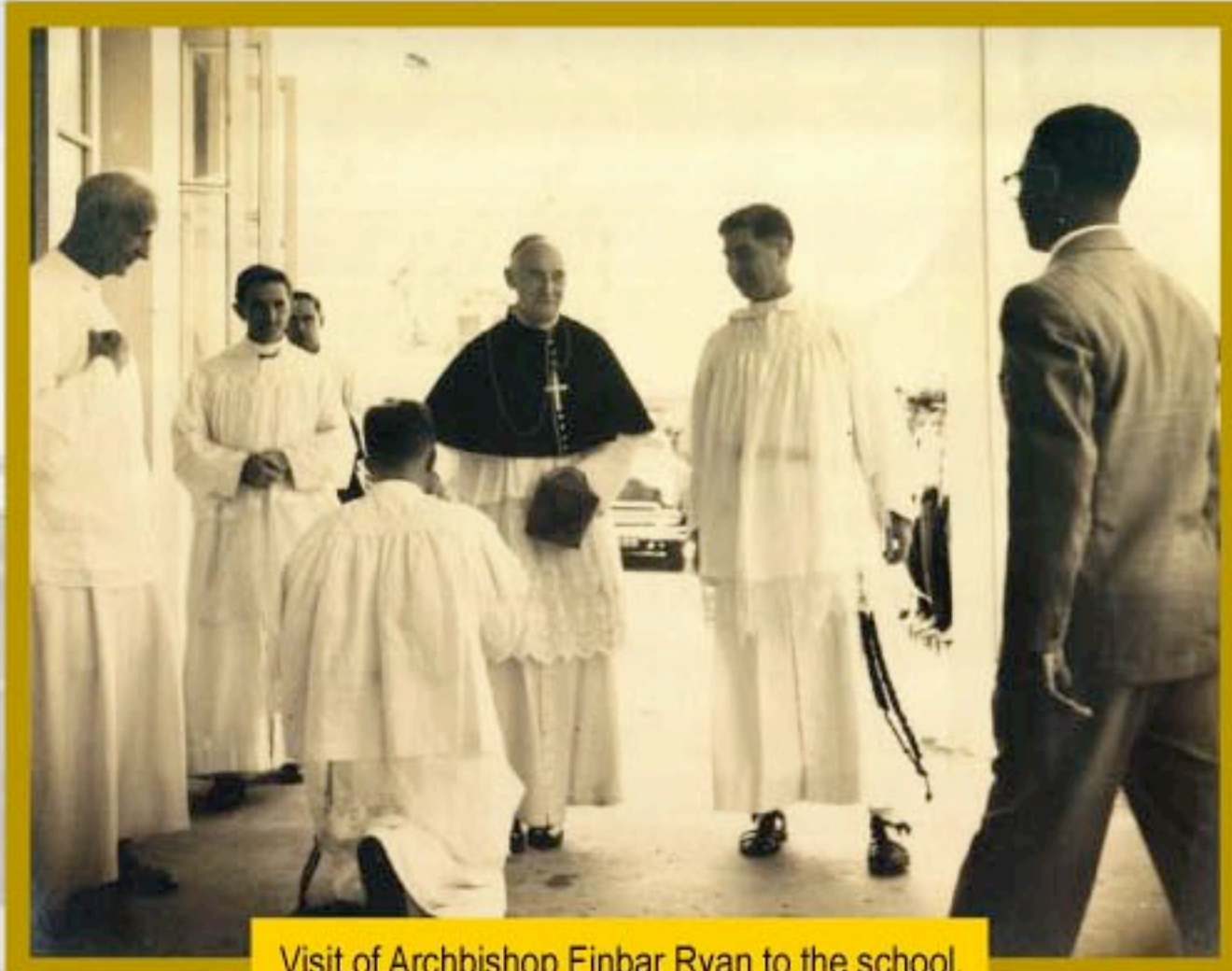
The North Zone league battle came down to the wire and the final standings were not decided until the very last whistle blew. Fatima's last game of the season was a 2-0 defeat of QRC and we had to hope that Trinity College would defeat Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive so that Fatima would be handed the title. Unfortunately this was not to be as the match ended 2-2, and Mucurapo and Fatima ended up with the same amount of points. However Mucurapo came out league winners with a better goal difference and our hopes of playing in the Big Five again were dashed.

In North Zone Intercol action Fatima advanced as far as the semi-finals but were upset 2-1 by St. Anthony's College thereby dashing any hopes of playing in the national Intercol Competition. Mucurapo subsequently trounced St. Anthony's 5-2 in the finals to claim the North Zone Intercol title.

## Teachers who left from 1998 - 2007



- 1998 Fr. Lennox Mc Phillip
- 1999 Mr. Ray Holman (31 yrs service)
- 2000 Ms. Leah Lutchman-Boodoosingh
- Mr. Quentin Jobs
- Dr. Bernard Tappin
- 2001 Mr. Alloy Lee Ha (retired - 35 yrs service)
- 2004 Ms. Francine Wilson (16 yrs service)
- Mr. Doolan Mahabir (retired - 15 yrs service)
- 2005 Mr. Fenrick De Silva (retired - 34 yrs service)
- Mr. Mervyn Achille (retired - 31 yrs service)
- 2007 Mr. Maurice Brash (retired - 38 yrs service)
- Mr. Krishna Charles (retired - 30 yrs service)



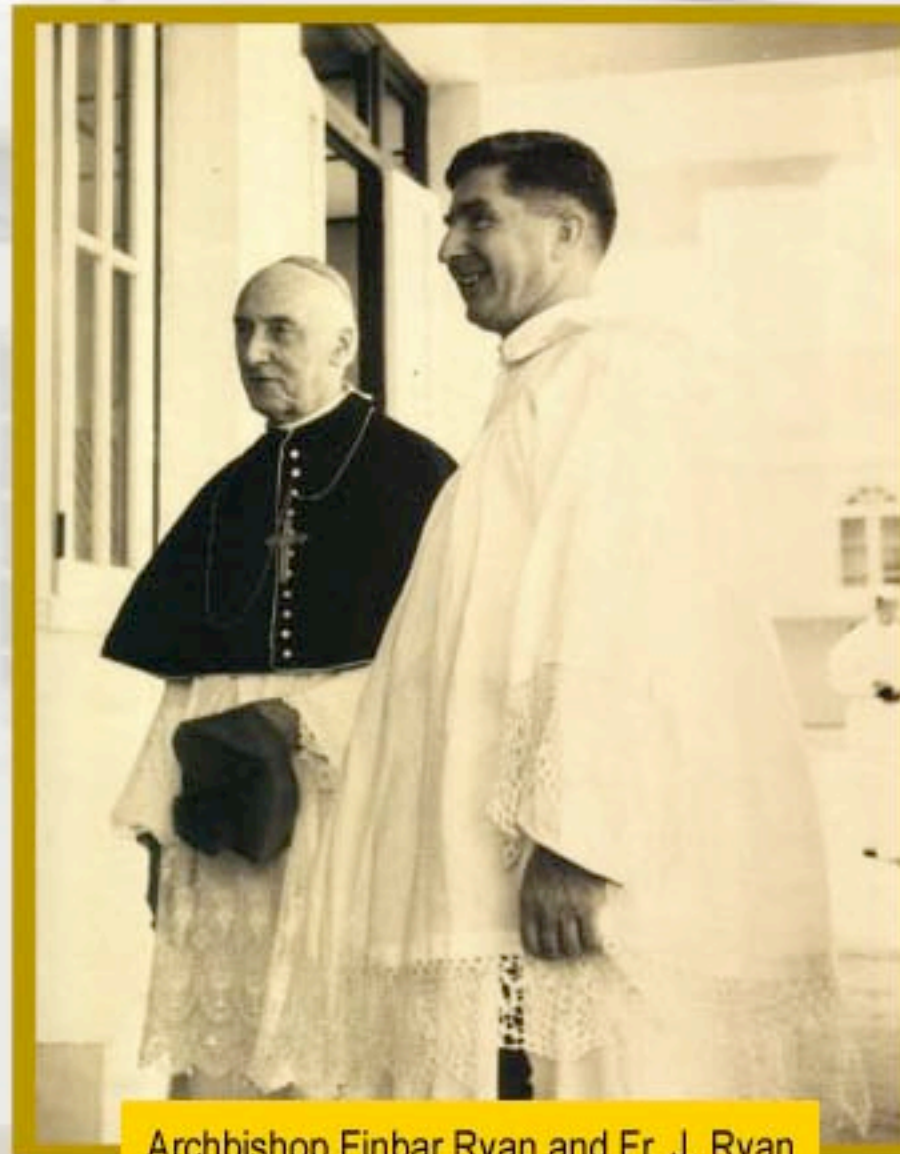
Visit of Archbishop Finbar Ryan to the school.



The Holy Ghost Fathers - Left to right: Fr. J.H. Ryan, Fr. D. Keegan, Fr. G. Farfan, Fr. T. Corcoran, John Mahon (Prefect), Fr. K. Power, Fr. J. Brett, Fr. A. Pantin, L. Cassidy (Prefect), J. Eagan (Prefect), Fr. I. Fitzwilliam, Liam Bolger (Prefect), Fr. J. Curtin.

## Letter to the Editor

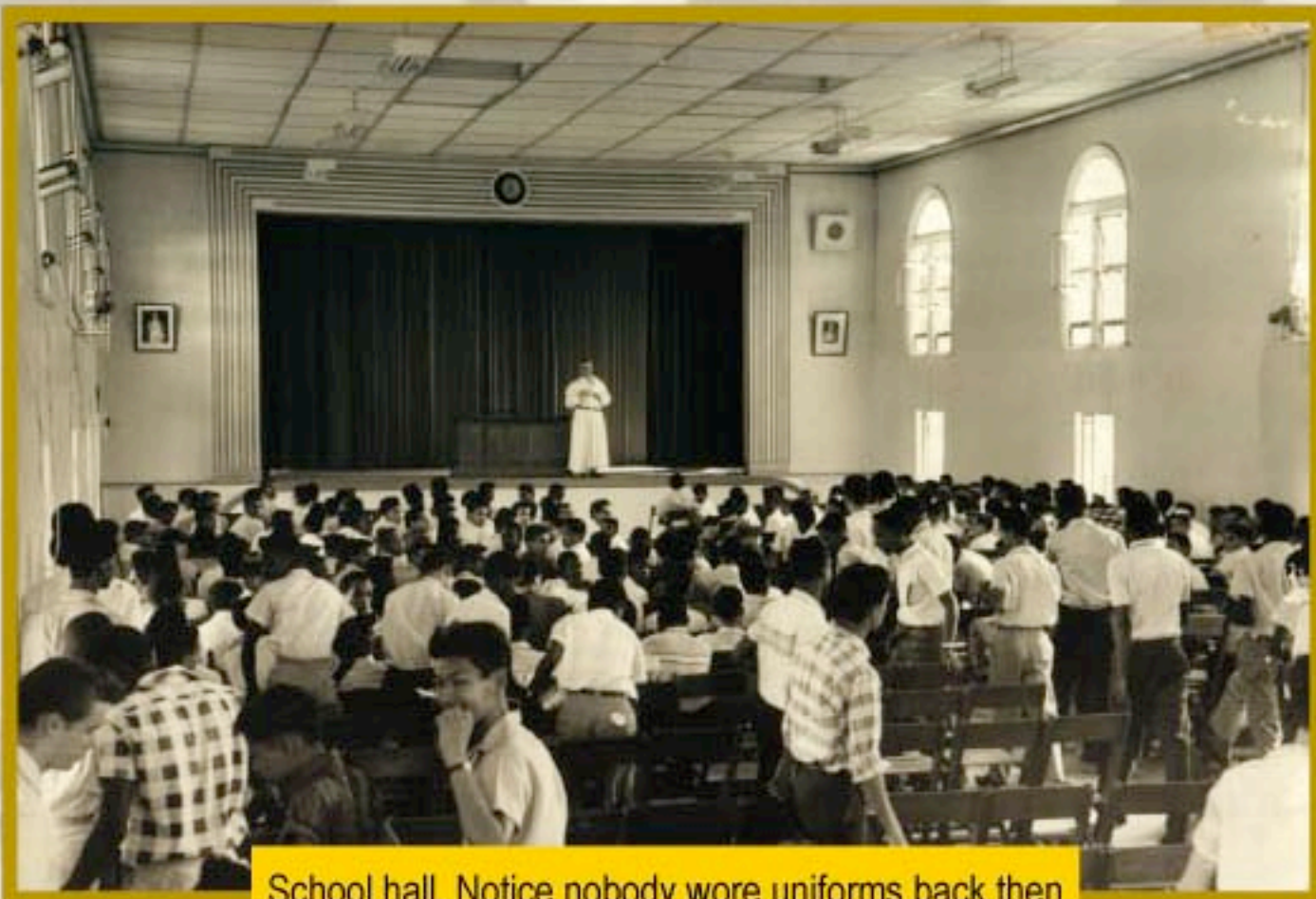
Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can e-mail their contributions to:  
[contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt](mailto:contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt)



Archbishop Finbar Ryan and Fr. J. Ryan



Fr. K. Power and Fr. J. Ryan in the late 60's when priests started to wear shirt and pants



School hall. Notice nobody wore uniforms back then



First Sea Scouts



Printing Sponsored by  
**SCRIP-J PRINTERS**

**Place your Classified Ads here!**

Anyone wishing to place an ad in our Classified Ads section can e-mail, [contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt](mailto:contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt) for our rates.

This Newsletter was designed by:  
**Simon Farrell Graphic Designs**

Tel/Fax: (868) 665-2334

Mobile: (868) 362-6218

Email: [simontfarrell@yahoo.com](mailto:simontfarrell@yahoo.com)

**TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT!**