



Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

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This issue

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

*A Tribute to
Archbishop
Anthony Pantin*

*School Library
Renovation Project*

*Interview with
Acting Principal
Father Gregory*

Salt and Pepper XI

*Meet the FOBA
Executive Committee*

*What's Happening
in Sports*

Flashback page



A brief History of Fatima College

CONTINUED FROM ISSUE 6 – JUNE 2011

Father Ryan had been quietly and almost unobtrusively building the pillars on the foundation laid by Fr. Byrne. When he retired, the student body had reached 700 and the staff 32. However, Fatima was still regarded as a second choice school. You went to Fatima because you were not good enough to go to Q.R.C or C.I.C. In 1965, just ten boys had Fatima as their first choice. The number did increase in the next few years maybe because of the exploits on the football field. The fact remained that Fatima was still not a first choice school.

Suddenly, all this changed. Fatima became, not only a school in demand, but made a dramatic impact on education. At the helm were two forceful, decisive, individuals, brimming with ideas. They were the first layman principal, Mr. Clive Pantin and a local Holy Ghost priest Fr. Gerard Farfan. They were ably supported by a professional staff, committed to education and

loyal to Fatima. They worked hard, fielded very strong cricket and football teams, participated in many social and cultural activities, engaged in healthy, at times, noisy arguments and possessed an infectious sense of humor.

The majority of the staff were old boys of Fatima and C.I.C. They knew and understood the systems in the school. Many had been tutored in the weekly sessions organized by Fr. Ryan. Anyone entering the teaching profession in 1972 could not help but feel the excitement as development plans for Fatima were unveiled. The administration discussed their plans freely with the junior teachers of staff. Principal and Vice-Principal frequented the Staff Room. They appeared at social activities, played for teachers' teams. They helped to create an informal family atmosphere which is one of the hallmarks of Fatima.

One of Mr. Pantin's first acts was to abandon streaming in the lower Forms. Students needed a period after Common Entrance and before Cambridge Examinations, free from too much academic competition. He recoiled at the idea of a 2B and 3B class and the damaging effects of streaming on the lowest streams. Changes took

place in Forms 4 and 5. Students were divided into sets on an individual subject basis.

The curriculum was diversified in the seventies with the introduction of Art, P.E, Industrial Art, Technical Drawing, Principles of Accounts and Commerce. In 1976, the afternoon periods were dropped every Wednesday to accommodate a wider range of activities including Auto-mechanics, A. Techniques, Choir, Music Appreciation, Cuisine, Dance, Relating, Drama, Welding Wood-work, Printing, Weight Training, PV topography, in addition to the sporting activities.

In 1973 Daphne Heywood and Jeanette Zakour, joined the staff, signaling the entrance of women in a male dominated institution.

The Fatima Development Fund was launched and the Audio Visual Centre, Library and three new classrooms were built. This centre created career opportunities for many Fatima pupils.

(Look for the continuation in Issue 8).



SUBMITTED BY WAYNE BLACKMAN



The continuation of a brief history of Fatima should have begun with the arrival to Fatima of then Father Anthony Pantin, and his activities and contribution to the school. Given this remarkable and memorable figure was a part of Fatima's history and growth and the name Pantin being so synonymous with Fatima college we thought it prudent to produce a full piece.

Anthony Gordon Pantin was born in Port of Spain in August 27, 1929, the second son of Julian Andrew Pantin, a business executive and his wife Agnes, nee Mazeley.

He received his primary education at Sacred Heart School and Belmont Intermediate School (now the Belmont Boys' Secondary RC School). From the latter he won a Government Scholarship, (called a Government Exhibition in those days) to St Mary's College. Also among the group of Exhibition winners from that school was Ellis Clarke who would become first President of independent Trinidad and Tobago.

His elder brother, Fr Gerald "Gerry" Pantin once observed that "Tony" wanted to be a priest from the time he was seven years old. He had been an acolyte at St Patrick's Church from an early age.

At St Mary's, Anthony Pantin was in the top academic stream and although considered a strong contender for the open island scholarship, the young Pantin decided to enter the priesthood at age 17 and was anxious to begin his priestly studies. He spent a short time teaching at St Mary's College before embarking for Canada.

Archbishop Pantin entered the novitiate of the

Holy Ghost Congregation in Canada in 1946 and attended the University of Montreal, graduating with his BA degree. He returned to Trinidad in 1949 for a further three-year teaching stint at St Mary's College. In 1952 he left for Dublin, Ireland, where he pursued studies in Theology. He was ordained priest on the 3rd July, 1955 and was sent to Guadeloupe as a missionary priest until 1959.

He returned to Trinidad in 1959 at which point he came to Fatima and was appointed Dean of the lower forms in 1960. He remained at Fatima until 1964, contributing immensely to the spiritual, social and academic, atmosphere of the school. He formed a Fatima Club, catering specifically to those students not involved in other activities. They organized a choir, sports meeting, and social gatherings. His Grace was also deeply involved in the Legion of Mary. Until his death, he kept a close association with Fatima.

In 1965 he returned to St Mary's College where he was elected to the post of Religious Superior, where he served until 1967. In November of that year, he was requested to accept responsibilities as head of the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, a post which was left vacant by the resignation of the legendary Count Finbar Ryan. Father

Pantin's Episcopal consecration took place on March 19, 1968.

As Archbishop he took the motto, "All things to all men" which would today be translated, "All things to all people". During his 32 years as Archbishop, he made strenuous efforts to fulfill the expectations of that motto. He was especially concerned with enriching the lives of the disadvantaged and underprivileged. He founded the Mary Care Centre to provide a home for pregnant unmarried teenagers. He is remembered as a mediator in the troubled times of both the Black Power crisis and the attempted 1990 coup. He was instrumental in forming the Inter-Religious Organization and took an active role in that group. He also took an active role in the activities of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, the association of Caribbean Bishops.

He died on Sunday, March 12th, 2000 where upon followed a Pontifical Mass presided over by the Papal Pro-Nuncio Archbishop Eugenio Sbarbaro DD at the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Anthony Gordon Pantin is entombed in the Cathedral crypt below the sacristy to the southwestern end of the altar.

School Library Renovation Project BY GEORGE LEE SHEE



FOBA recently completed its latest undertaking to further develop the student facilities at its alma mater, Fatima College, and to raise the education level of the College's students. The Library Refurbishment Project funded the upgrading of the present library which is situated on the top floor of the east building bordering the river. Work on the new library began as soon as the school closed for the July-August holidays and finished in time for the start of the 2011 term in September.

The new layout included a large room dedicated to the Form 6 students complete with a drop down screen for multi-media viewings. The main library was also equipped with multi-media facilities. It was rewired and cameras

installed. The audio visual room also underwent minor renovations. The estimated cost of the building works and furnishings was approximately TT \$750,000, the major source of the funds coming from the staging of the annual Carnival fete.

For those very ole boys, the first library was located on the south-east side of the 2nd floor (1st floor for those accustomed to the British nomenclature) next to the Form 6-Languages classroom. The present library was built in February 1974 on the area which housed the bicycle sheds and the Form 6-Sciences classroom. It forms part of the building which also accommodates the Audio-Visual room and three classrooms. As a comparison, the cost of



the whole building in 1974 was TT \$170,000 and this figure included the cost of the roof which is not part of the upgrade!!

The completion of the modern up-to-date library will put Fatima at the forefront of secondary schools in Trinidad by giving its computer-literate student body the tools and resources to access the worldwide web thereby widening their research skills and knowledge in completing assignments. It is expected that our students and graduates will achieve a higher level of excellence and garner national recognition for the school.

Executive Committee member, Dwight Andrews spearheaded the project along with other committee members Noel Aming and Graeme Ottley. And mention must be made of committee member, Trevor DeLandro, who was very instrumental in getting the project completed on time. Cudos go out to the team.

More pictures of the new library can be viewed on the FOBA website.



Interview with Acting Principal Father Gregory BY STEFAN ROACH (CLASS OF 2006)

1. When did you first enter Fatima College?

In 1974 as a student, then I returned in 1992 as a teacher.

2. Compare the Fatima of today to the Fatima when you were a student.

Similarities: Fatima has a sense of being at home. Everyone is comfortable and there is a sense of ownership and a real camaraderie amongst both students and staff members.

Differences: The world has changed and teaching is more challenging as the world presents more challenges. The students are different as they are exposed to a lot more and have to navigate through all that exposure. The teacher feels more strain and demand on their person as well.

3. Who were the major influences on your life?

Father Brett (pointing to a picture on a cabinet in his office) was a major influence ...a major teaching influence. He was a great historian and a real peoples' person. He knew everyone and their families. He had a great passion for life and life's experiences. I found him very interesting and he really planted in my mind the idea of being a priest. He was the principal of St. Mary's in the 1950's and came to Fatima in the early 1960's. He taught history and religion but overall was really a teacher of life...his philosophy of life.

4. Briefly describe your family.

My parents have six children and I am the fifth. I have four brothers and one sister. All

the boys attended Fatima and my sister attended Holy Name Convent. There were Augustines in Fatima from 1965-1982 from my generation. Two of my brothers are currently priests.

5. How did you eventually return to Fatima as a teacher?

I was ordained a Holy Ghost Father in 1992 and was sent to Fatima.

6. Did you live at Fatima from that point?

Yes, since 1992. This is my twentieth year living here.

7. When did you become manager of Fatima and describe your role?

I succeeded Father Power, an Irish Holy Ghost Father who retired in 1990. There was a gap of about two years without a manager before I succeeded him in 1992. The manager position came about when Fatima had its first lay Principal, Clive Pantin and it served the purpose of mainly representing the Holy Ghost Fathers who are the school's board. As manager I was a teacher but also in charge of the plant. Any maintenance was part of my duty and also to work closely with the principal.

8. Are you the first Fatima Old Boy to become principal of Fatima?

Yes.

9. Describe the ideal Fatima student.

I think the ideal Fatima student is someone who is very much at home with himself and others. He is a student who is well balanced...not only about academia but other things, a humble student who doesn't look down on others. As Fatima

students, we are happy with who we are. The motto as well, 'by striving we will conquer' subliminally engrains in us and gives a sense that we have to work hard to overcome any hurdles in achieving our goals. That is what our motto supposed to do. We have to eat it so it becomes part of us!

10. What is your vision for Fatima?

Life has its share of challenges and I would want the Fatima boy to, on a personal level be equipped to face them and not shy away. A successful person is not only a person who makes a lot of money but someone who is able to embrace all that life deals you, both good and bad. We must be able to draw on the resources that we have within.

The Fatima boy will also be more and more called upon to lead in our society and we must be good leaders that will be at the service of others, leaders with proper values, Christian values, servant leaders, willing to be at the service of others.

11. Any closing remarks?

I remember you in your white shirt and blue pants as a little child attending Diamond Vale Primary. Of course you were then here in Fatima as a student and now I see you as a young man. I see you as a very typical Fatima student and that makes me very proud. Observing through the mind of a historian, it makes me proud to see boys that I once taught become men...real men. That gives me a sense of satisfaction and joy.



Fatima Old Boys' Association hosted its Annual Cookout, 'Salt & Pepper XI' on Saturday October 15th, 2011. This year's event was plagued by rain and challenges related to the inclement weather but was still a resounding success.

The rain's best attempts to stop this year's cookout was foiled by our diehard guests who turned out in their numbers, along with their umbrellas of course. The event was concentrated in the school's quadrangle as usual, but this time the hall was also included as a quiet dining area. It was later discovered that the use of this area was a decision made on the day in response to the inclement weather.

The décor was simple but effective in creating an elegant environment and the guests dressed the part as well, with mainly semiformal attire. The DJ enhanced the atmosphere with quite a varied range of music, from soca parang and vintage calypso to reggae and pop. The mix was well done to say the least.

The food this year was excellent and in abundance. Any concern over small servings that might have been a complaint in the past was quickly erased. Guests expressed their 110% satisfaction with the quality of the meals and the serving sizes.

Much thanks goes out to the numerous sponsors and contributions from other schools

such as, Belmont Ex pupils Association (Belex) who served 'Dook's Budget Pork' by Keith Robinson, 'Anti-Gang Pineapple Chicken' by Priscilla Trotman and 'Hot and Spicy Curfew Goat' by Adrian Foster and St.Mary's College (CIC) who contributed 'Pork in ya Sow and So' by Mark Bishop and 'Budget Goodies (lamb)' by Brevard Nelson. Holy Name Convent (HNC), Queen's Royal College (QRC) and St. Joseph Convent (SJC) also contributed, not to mention Fatima teachers' 'Ziegenfleisch in Curryssosse (curried goat)'.

Seafood and Pork dominated the selection of choices with creative and humorous names such as 'Pig in D Coffin', 'Hot Spot' (Geera Pork on a base of pimentos and cassava) by Dennis Ramdeen and 'Diesel Catch' (King Fish in a Patchoi jacket) by Mario Young. The current State of Emergency and Curfew inspired most of the humorous names: - "Allyuh Eat Meh Chicken before D Curfew" by Joel Latiff, Keith Simpson's 'Two Curried Ducks - Result of Breaking Curfew' are prime examples. Despite all the scores of dishes to choose from, the area that consistently had the longest line was by far the corn-soup man. What a surprise! Dessert involved a choice of cake and ice-cream and drinks were also available at reasonable prices.

The FOBA Alumni Communications Sub-Committee launched a pilot batch of Fatima merchandise for purchase at the event as well,

featuring polo shirts, ceramic and steel mugs and caps; all branded with the Fatima logo. Look out for more to come on this as we shall soon be launching our FOBA e-store on FOBA's website.

The event closed off with a double dose of Karaoke. There were young ones and well, not too young ones providing the beautiful, off-key singing which has become the trademark of 'good' karaoke. There were some excellently done renditions of Elvis Presley classics though which drew joyous screams from the crowd. The FOBA 2k11 Salt & Pepper was overall a success. The President of FOBA, Mr. Barry Davis, noted his anxiety in light of the gloomy weather throughout the day but felt proud that they were able to pull through. He went on to praise Father Gregory, the Principal of Fatima college who endured a soaking while transferring tables from the quadrangle to the school's hall during the afternoon. "The event turned out so much better than expected!" exclaimed a relieved Barry Davis. At 9.15pm, the music cut off, marking the conclusion of quite an enjoyable night.



Meet the FOBA Executive Committee



BACK ROW L to R
Roger D'Abadie (Class of 73), Trevor De Landro (Class of 74), Derek De Gannes (Class of 72), Raymond Samms (Class of 84), Kevin Crosby (Class of 92), Afiba Gill (Class of 2008), Historian Keith Simpson (Class of 68)

FRONT ROW L to R
Ruthven Thompson (Class of 91), Noel Aming (Class of 68), Stafford Yorke (Class of 72), Barry Davis (Class of 81), Graeme Ottley (Class of 85), Dwight Andrews (Class of 83), George Lee Shee (Class of 68)

ABSENT
Newman George (Class of 72), Kenny Young (Class of 71), Hayden Alexander (Class of 72)



Sports Achievements Sept 2010 to June 2011, Pt. 2

Athletics

(continued from Issue #6)

17th and 18th February, 2011: The Port of Spain and Environs Championships followed a week after Relay Fest with our boys putting their best foot forward, winning in several categories, in spite of a short break between events. Nikolai Solomon and Abraham Bowen excelled in the shot putt and long jump, respectively. Both boys were selected to represent the district at the National Championships.

March to Mid April: In this period we participated in the Belmont Boys' 5k, Southern Games Heats, the Carifta trials, and the Falcon Games in Tobago.

29th and 30th April: Our Lady of Fatima College participated for the first time in the premiere high school athletics event, The Penn Relays, in the USA. This historic event saw Fatima challenging schools from all over the world in the 4x100m and 4x400m races. The results for a first time school have exceeded all expectations. In the shorter sprint, our team of Trey Hart, Abraham Bowen, Alexander Prevatt, and Breon Mullings impressed several local coaches by clocking a time of 43.71 and placing second in our heat (38th out of 266 schools). The 4x400 team of William Alexander, Mikheil Caraby, Ché Carr and Marcel Louis gave of their best in spite of blustery conditions on race day. We are very proud of these young men who, together with reserves Mikel Worrell and Xavier Mulugata, were more than excellent ambassadors for Fatima College and Trinidad and Tobago on and off the track.

Swimming

(continued from Issue #6)

There are six (6) categories in a swim meet: three (3) non-competitive, under 12, 13 to 14, and over 15, and three (3) competitive categories, under 12, 13 to 14, and over 15. Fatima swimmers dominated three categories in the competition - the 13 to 14 non-competitive, the under 12 and the 13 to 14 competitive.

The Fatima boys who excelled in swimming this season were Shane Corbie in the non-competitive competition and Joshua Romany, Dillon Carter, Joshua Baptiste and Blaine Sobrian in the competitive competition. Four (4) Fatima boys have earned a spot on the Trinidad and Tobago National Swim team, they are:- Jabari Baptiste, Dillion Carter, Joshua Romany and Blaine Subrian. Congratulations!

Water Polo

(continued from Issue #6)

The water polo season ran from January to March: Our Form 1 boys were tipped as being the strongest team in this category. We were the only unbeaten team going into the knock-out stage. Unfortunately, against CIC, under enormous fan pressure we were beaten into third place overall.

The Under-16 boys are new and inexperienced but will be in this category for the next 2 years and are expected to emerge champions for 2012.

As indicated ten (10) Fatima boys have earned a spot on the Trinidad and Tobago National Water Polo team, they are:-

Ryan West, Kyle Ferreira, Andrew Clarke, Giovanni Newallo, Russell Ferreira, Sebastian Van Rechan, Daniel Tardieu, Justin Bhola, Andrew Too-A-Foo and Marc Stauble. Congratulations!

Coaches - Alan Too-A-Foo, John G. Ferreira captains, vice captains and all the boys of the aquatics teams would like to thank Father Gregory for all the encouragement, Mr. White, all the teachers who helped, the parents and the Fatima Old Boys who financially supported the Fatima Aquatics Team.

SPORTS EXTRA

Rugby

Fatima College Form Six Student, Tariq Cheekes, recently made his debut on the Trinidad and Tobago National Senior team for this year's North America and Caribbean (NACRA) Rugby Sevens Championship, which

was held the weekend of November 11th, 2011 in Barbados. Trinidad and Tobago Rugby Football Union (TTRFU), Chairman of the Selectors, Curtis Nero said the Trinidad and Tobago Men and Women 7s Rugby teams selected for the NACRA 7s is a continuation of the TTRFU's focus on young players who display the discipline, dedication and desire required at the International level.

Tariq Cheekes was also selected on the Trinidad and Tobago Under 18 rugby team that took part in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Isle of Man this year and at the Caribbean Under 19 rugby championships.

Cricket

Fatima College cricket teams did us proud this year by first clinching the Secondary Schools Cricket League's (SSCL) North Under-15 knock-out final in St. Clair on June 2nd. They defeated St. Mary's by 6 wickets on St. Mary's grounds.

Captain - Liam Guillen,
Best Batsman - Dominic Henderson - 25 not out.
Best Bowler - Haffiz Emamalie - 4 overs, 5 runs, 4 wickets
Man of the Match - Haffiz Emamalie

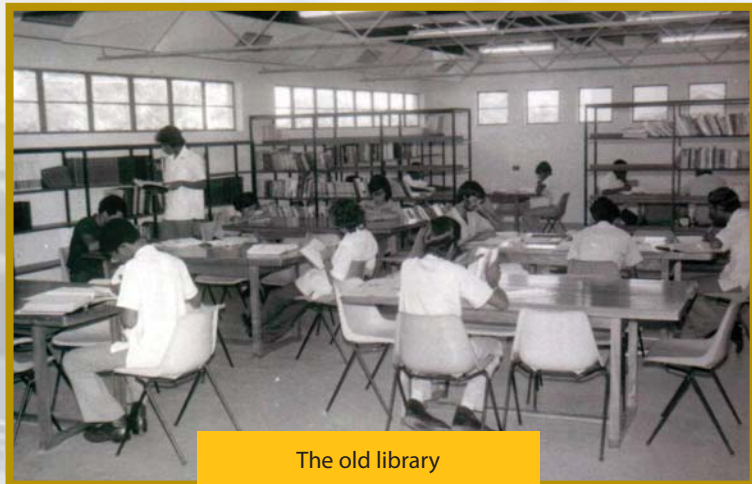
Then on Thursday 9th June 2011, at Fatima College grounds, they defeated St. Anthony's College by 34 runs to win the North Under-17 Championship. Congratulations guys!



Cricket North Under 15 Champions



Annual College Reunion, December 1969
Left to right: Fr. J.H. Ryan (Principal); Fr. Malcolm Galt (Provincial of Holy Ghost Fathers & Patron of the Old Boys Union); Archbishop Anthony Pantin, and Stephen Almandoz (President of the Fatima Old Boys Union).



The old library



Outside the old library



Editor's note submitted on picture from Newsletter #6

The above picture was posted in the last issue as '1963-64 First Eleven'. We were happy to have received the following information from FOBA Historian, Keith Simpson, who was able to identify the picture.

The football team in the Newsletter is a 1964 team, not the First Eleven team. This team represented Fatima at our first ever Intercol match held in the Oval; we lost this match 3 - 1 to CIC. We were leading 1 - 0 (strangely, the match was played more than the stipulated time) when CIC scored through Richard De Souza (deceased) who chipped a ball over our keeper Hayden Duprey's head. He was out his line thinking that the whistle was going to be blown soon (the referee was a CIC old boy based on data communicated to me). The radio announcer had already said that Fatima had won its first Intercol match, but the game went on and on and on – the boys really put up a grand fight and in to extra time many players suffered from cramp.

The team:-
BACK ROW: Winston Noel, Rawle McIntosh, Hayden Duprey, Calvin O'Brien, Ken Attale, George Assam. FRONT ROW: Frank Mahabir (played in 1965), Peter Borde, Conrad Aleong (capt), Roger Duprey (capt 65/66), Stanley Amoroso Centeno.

Letters to the Editor

Greetings, Thank you so much for the Newsletter. It brings back so many memories. Oddly enough I cannot seem to remember any bad memories. This tells me I have a special fondness for Fatima. I am starting to feel that I should leave my self-imposed rat race and join my former classmates (many of whom I see have gained some weight).

Martinez, Clement (Class of 1978)

Can you identify anyone in these old photos?

Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to: contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



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