

Vatican medals for bellringers

RECORD-BREAKING SIX ARE HONOURED

BY LEADER REPORTER

A TRIBUTE to the unique dedication of members of Limerick's Mount St. Alphonsus Bellringers Society was paid last Sunday when a record-breaking six members received Bene Merenti medals from the Vatican in recognition of their service to the Church.

Mr. Patrick Hanley, secretary of the society, explained that this was the first time so many people received these medals at one time—certainly in Ireland and England.

Six members of the society received them, along with certificates, in recognition of long service as bellringers at the church.

Names

They are Mr. Liam Benson, 38 years' service; his brother, Mr. Patrick Benson, 35 years' service; Mr. Patrick Hanley, 32 years' service; Mr. Hugh O'Brien, 27 years' service, and Mr. Liam Hickey, 32 years' service.

"We are all very proud of the achievement", Mr. Hanley commented.

Those who received the medals are members of families who have long associations with the Redemptorist bell-ringing society.

Mr. Mr. Jack Butler's three uncles were involved with the society in the 1890s and early 1900s.

First ladies

Mr. Liam Hickey's wife and Mr. Patrick Hanley's wife were the first two lady bellringers at the Redemptorists.

Mr. Hanley has two sons in the society, Mr. Butler has one daughter and two sons in it and Mr. Hickey has two daughters there.

The Benson family has long associations with the society. The late Mr. Dave Benson received two Papal medals when he served with the society.

The Mount St. Alphonsus Bellringers Society is a mere two years away from celebrating its 100th anniversary. This Sunday it will compete in the Munster championships.

There are 30 members in the society and a handbell class has just recently been set up.



Very Rev. James McGrath, C.S.S.R., Prov., with the six Redemptorist bellringers who received medals from the Vatican in recognition of their long service. From left: Mr. Liam Benson, Mr. Patrick Benson, Mr. Jack Butler, Mr. Patrick Hanley, Mr. Hugh O'Brien and Mr. Liam Hickey.

Frogmen thanked

Limerick Sub-aqua Club and Neptune Sub-aqua Club were thanked by Garda Inspector Michael Creaton this week at an inquest into the death of 12-year-old Matthew Welsh, of High Street, Croom, who fell into the River Maigue at Croom on February 6 last. The body was recovered a week later after extensive dragging of the river and an underwater search.

The jury, under coroner Mr. Tom Mitchell, solr., Hospital, returned a verdict of death due to drowning, on hearing medical evidence from Dr. James O'Driscoll, pathologist, Regional Hospital.

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