

Become a member

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Catenian membership offers deep and lasting friendship and support to Catholic men at all stages of their lives, whether married or single. This friendship is based on the firm foundation of a shared faith and is enjoyed by their wives (whether Catholic or not), their children and continues after a member's death with widows being supported and involved on a continuing basis. The monthly meeting provides a time for relaxed enjoyment among supporting and faithful friends. The varied local social programme caters for all ages and provides a light-hearted environment in which friendships flourish.

Whatever difficulties you face in life there will be members and their wives committed to helping you. Should a Brother suffer financial difficulties there is a benevolence fund to provide assistance.

Prospective members are invited (without obligation) to join in one or two social activities and then come along to a couple of meetings as an observer: If at that point you feel you (and your wife if you are married) would enjoy the benefits of membership then you would make a formal application through the Catenians with which you have made contact

If you do not know any Catenians locally please click:

membership@thecatenians.com

And we will put you in touch.

Family Men

If you are busy developing your career and providing for your growing family the Association provides a network of like-minded people who share your faith and values. It provides an oasis of calm away from the challenges to one's beliefs in the work place: be it in the world of medicine, education, public service or business where corporate employment or trading policies are contrary to justice and respect for human dignity.

While away on business you would be encouraged to visit any nearby meeting to share a convivial evening, If a career move requires re-location, you will find a 'circle' of friends ready to welcome you and your family.

Wives and Families

One Catenian wife, when giving a pulpit presentation about what her husband's membership of the Association meant to her, described the pleasure and enjoyment she had experienced being

the wife of a Catenian saying she felt that the slogan 'strengthening family life through friendship and faith' was indeed a reality. She went on to say that although membership is restricted to men, the Association could be more accurately described as a group of families, with an active social calendar geared to the mix of the members' families.

She confessed that at first she found it difficult to adjust to an organisation, which asked for nothing more than one's friendship: with some of those friendships running very deep. There was no hidden agenda and no politics.

She described how when her mother died, she had been inundated with calls and cards offering practical and spiritual help. The Catenian Association has Faith at its core but there is no requirement for wives to be Catholics. A great many are not yet play an active and fulfilling role within the Catenian family.

Empty Nesters

When the family leaves home and moves away – often these days long distances - Catenian membership provides interesting activities and fellowship for members and their wives. Later, retirement can create a void which membership fills by providing regular contact with others.

Friendship in Faith

Those who re-locate as they get older to be near sons and daughters can quickly settle into their new surroundings with new Catenian friends. Should a member suffer bereavement then support and understanding is assured. Others will have had the same experience. Whether a member, or a wife of a deceased member, there is no need to be lonely as you come to terms with this new stage in your life.

New Catholics

Changing one's faith or denomination requires great courage and can result in loneliness or isolation. Many Catenians are themselves converts. Their membership offered them immediate and lasting support both spiritually and socially, and helped ease the path on their spiritual journey. Membership could do the same for you.

Proposed rewrite

Looking for lasting friendship? A supportive social circle? Connection? Community? By becoming a member of the Catenians, you've got all that and more.

Whatever age you are, whether you're married or single, if you're part of the Catholic faith, we welcome you to our men's group.

But it's not only men who are connected within our Circles. Wives (whether Catholic or not) and children are not only invited but encouraged to join our community - that's why we've a number of regular family events to promote inclusivity and unity. Each local branch (or Circle, as we call them) provides a varied social programme for all ages. Think sporting activities, quiz nights, family fun days, charity fundraisers, business networking, and other social events. Even after a member's death, that support continues: your widow and family will still be involved as much as they choose to be - they won't lose our friendship.

These days, lives are busy, packed, and often pressured. It's hard sometimes to get a bit of headspace and time to talk. Every month, we meet to relax, enjoy being with others with common interests, and gain support from open-minded, listening ears. Whatever difficulties you're facing in life, members (and their wives) are here to help. Struggling financially? We've even got a benevolence fund to help take the pressure off a bit.

Interested? Why not join in one or two social activities, then come along to a couple of meetings as an observer? There's no obligation to go further if it's not your cup of tea. But if, once you've seen firsthand, you feel like you (and your wife if you're married) would enjoy being part of the group, you just need to apply through the Circle you've contacted.

Don't know any Catenians locally? Just click membership@thecatenians.com and we'll put you in touch.

A man of many hats

Employee? Husband? Business-owner? Father? Many hats means a lot of headspace. Maybe you're busy developing your career. Maybe you're working hard to provide for your growing family. Maybe you're doing both. And that can get a bit of a juggle at the best of times.

The Catenians gives you a network of like-minded people who share your faith and values, and who understand the pressures of a modern work-life balance. Whatever world you work in, having a safe space to socialise in means you have a chance to release any stress that's built up.

Going away on business? Visit a nearby meeting to share some familiar structure outside your normal environment. Relocating? All over the UK (and several parts of the world) are Circles waiting to welcome you and your family.

An inclusive environment

Although created as a male support group, we're not closed off to women. Far from it.

We warmly welcome wives and families, whether they're Catholic or not - there's no requirement for that, even though the Catenians is built on a foundation of shared faith. A large majority of wives play an active role in the Catenian community, gaining a great deal of reward from the group.

"Being the wife of a Catenian has brought me so much pleasure and enjoyment. The slogan 'strengthening family life through friendship and faith' isn't just words. It's a reality. Yes, it's a men's group, but actually it's a group of families, and all the different activities we can come to are geared towards everyone, not just the men.

When I first started coming, I thought it was weird; a group that just asks for friendship? What's the catch? But then I realised, those deep friendships are everything. There's no hidden agenda and no politics - it's quite refreshing! And those friendships meant the world when my mum died - I had so many calls and cards, all offering help and support. That was massive to me, especially when I'm not an actual member. I'm not even a Catholic. But that didn't matter, they still made me feel part of their community. "

Lindsay, Harrogate

Going the distance

Whatever stage of your life, the Catenians has something for you. It's not just younger generations and their families who find fulfilment in our friendship.

Perhaps you're an empty nester, looking for social interaction to complement your new normal.

Perhaps you've reached retirement and you're missing regular human contact.

Perhaps you've relocated in your golden years and you want to feel part of your new surroundings.

It doesn't matter what your reasons are, you'll find a sense of community here.

And if the worst should happen? If you suffer a bereavement, support and understanding is a given. Whether you're a member, or the wife of a deceased member, please don't feel you are alone. You have a group here by your side for life, if that's what you want.

Reforged links

Are you someone new to the Catholic faith? We know firsthand how lonely it can be to change from one faith or denomination, as many Catenians are themselves converts. It takes a lot of courage to navigate a new way of doing things.

Being a member means you don't have to walk that path alone: we're here to walk beside you. With immediate and lasting support both spiritually and socially, you'll find yourself a valued link in a Circle.

Catenians - Slide 39 rewrite

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Founded in 1908 in Manchester, The Catenian Association is an international brotherhood of Catholics who regularly meet socially, and with their families, to enjoy each other's company, to provide a social network, and to offer each other and their families friendship, companionship, concern, care, moral and, if necessary, financial support.

The Catenians are a lay friendship-network of men from all over the world who attempt to live their lives in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. St Thomas Aquinas wrote: "There is nothing on earth more to be prized than friendship", and Catenians appreciate that their strong bonds of faith-based friendship bring them much joy, and in return they share that joy by making a particular point of supporting many charitable works, with a particular focus on the development, support and encouragement of Catholic youth throughout the world.

Initial rewrite

Providing supportive friendship for over a hundred years, The Catenian Association has a focus on the future and busy, modern lives of its members.

Founded in 1908 in Manchester, and growing to be a worldwide organisation, the Catenians originated as a Catholic group for men who met to share their faith and interests with one

another. Over time, this has evolved to a welcoming social network for members and their families.

Regular, relaxed events - think barbecues, sports, family fun days, plus business networking and mental health support for men - provide friendship, advice, opportunities, care, a listening ear and, if necessary, financial support.

With roots in a shared faith, there is a real sense of community, connection, and congregation: being part of something. Joy gained is given back through supporting many charitable causes - local and global - to help communities grow and enjoy life.