



Fr Juraj Terek and Sebastian Hoogewerf



Cardinal Christoph Schönborn



Christiaan Alting von Geusau and Lord Alton

Cardinal Schönborn at

CARDINAL Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna, was the main attraction at a well-attended dinner for the International Theological Institute (ITI) hosted in London by Mr and Mrs Graham Hutton last week. Distinguished guests included the Catholic peer Lord Alton, novelist Piers Paul Read and *The Catholic Herald's* chairman Peter Sheppard, among others.

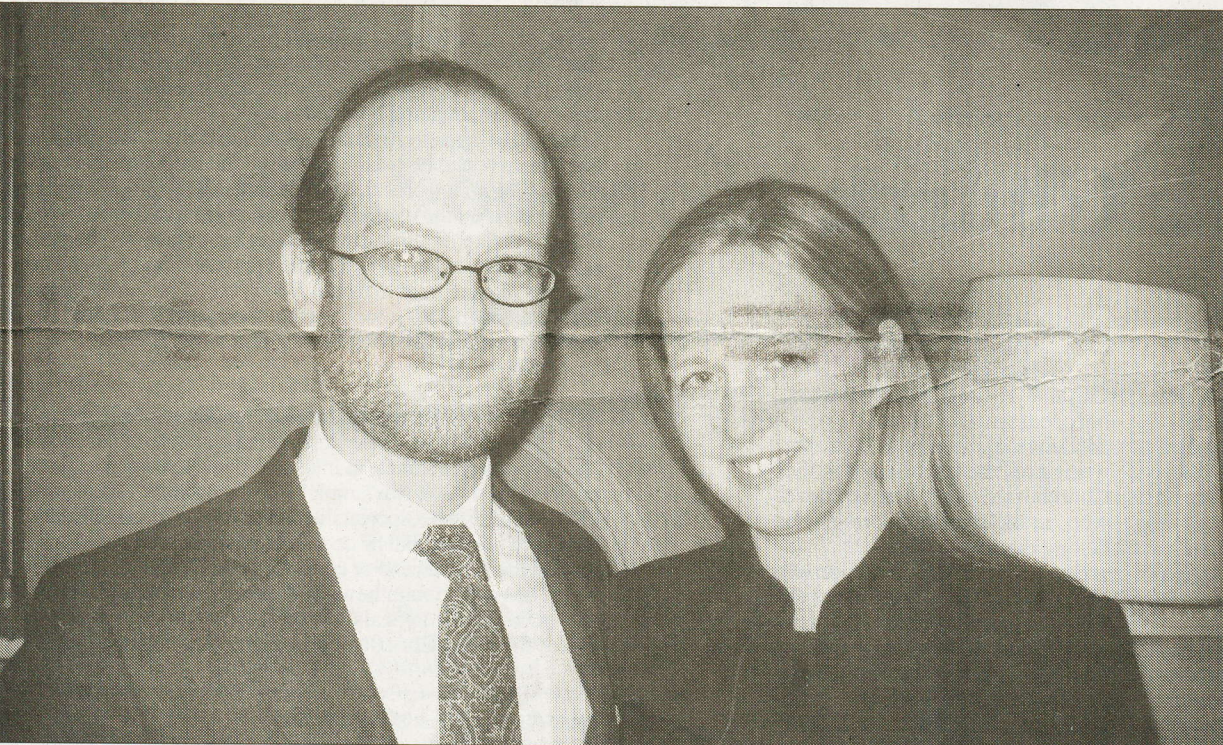
Mr Hutton introduced Cardinal Schönborn, the Grand Chancellor of ITI, a school set up at the wish of Pope John Paul II.

He said: "I should like to thank Cardinal Schönborn for generously giving of his precious time to be with us this evening and for battling against the English weather.

"It is a mark of the high esteem in which you are held, Your Eminence, that there has been such a tremendous

response to the invitations to this evening's dinner and I know that we are all eagerly looking forward to what you have to say to us later.

"The purpose of the evening, of course, is to introduce you to the ITI of which Cardinal Schönborn is the Grand Chancellor and of which there are a number of representatives here tonight on the various tables. The cardinal will speak about the ITI later so I won't preempt this; but if I may I will say something briefly on a personal note. Ever since Fr [John] Saward, who is with us this evening, introduced me to the ITI in 2001 it has been a tremendous inspiration to me. Founded at the behest of our beloved Pope John Paul II just over a decade ago, the ITI is a very special place, unique in Europe, maybe unique in the world, where young Catholics from East and West



Lord Nicholas Windsor and his wife



n and Graham Hutton



Joanna Bogle

tends London dinner

can come together to study their Catholic heritage and then, inspired and formed by this heritage, return to their own countries to build Christ's Kingdom. Many of us in this room may be troubled by the way things are going in western Europe: by the increasing secularisation of our culture and our institutions; by the breakdown of families; by the loss of a sense of the roots of European civilisation.

"I believe that the ITI is just one, but one very powerful answer to these issues. I hope that many of you may begin an association with the ITI tonight and that those who do will come to find it as great an inspiration to their faith and hope as I have done."

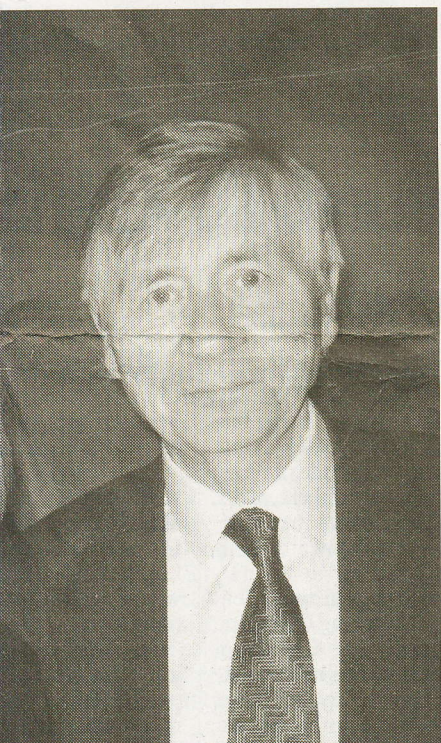
Cardinal Schönborn then gave Catholics in Britain a message of hope and spoke about the work of the ITI, a

papal theological institute in Austria. The cardinal told the story of Fr Yuriy Kolasa from the Ukraine who, upon graduating from the ITI, set out to help the Church in concrete ways. As head of the Marriage and Family Commission of the Archdiocese of Lviv, Fr Yuriy developed a programme to combat the divorce rate in the Ukraine. It was so successful that the Ukrainian government asked the commission to develop a similar program for them.

The cardinal spoke about the formation that the ITI offers to young Catholics, which is based on four pillars: teaching theology as a "unified whole", bridging the gap between East and West. a strong pedagogy with a focus on the Church's Doctors as well as the Sacred Scriptures and a rich and closely knit Catholic community.



Michael and Elizabeth Forrester



ers Paul Read



Lady Brennan with Anthony and Marie Therese Bailey