

Update!

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University of St. Jerome's College

"Enthusiasm for the truth" theme chosen for 125th Anniversary



125 Years

Enthusiasm for the truth
L'enthousiasme pour la vérité

The College has delved into the earliest records of its history to declare the theme for its 125th Anniversary year beginning in 1989-90. "Enthusiasm for the truth," or as it originally appeared in College founder Father Louis Funcken's writings "l'enthousiasme pour la vérité," is the theme chosen for the celebrations to honour this milestone in St. Jerome's College history.

This phrase, which encapsulates the central purpose of a St. Jerome's education as envisioned by Fr. Funcken, was used frequently by him in his letters and diaries. It was discovered by College historian Fr. Jim Wahl, C.R., who has studied extensively both the history of the Congregation of the Resurrection and the University of St. Jerome's College.

The phrase originally appears in Fr. Funcken's October 1864 report to Bishop John Farrell, first Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton. In it, Fr. Funcken discusses the establishment of St. Jerome's College in St. Agatha.

"I think Fr. Funcken meant that by being exposed to good teaching of truth, students would be imbued with a desire to seek truth in all things and not be led astray by the dominant 'isms' of the time," explains Fr. Wahl. "He wrote at a time when secularism, paganism, rationalism and socialism threatened, he believed, the moral fibre of society."

"Father Funcken's intention in establishing St. Jerome's College was to form a learned Catholic layperson," adds Fr. Wahl, "as well as learned clerics."

Though he normally spoke and wrote in German, Fr. Funcken wrote his report to Bishop Farrell in French because the Bishop did not speak German.

The College will use the theme in both its original French form and also the English translation, an appropriate choice given Canada's two official languages. A logo incorporating the theme has been designed (see above) and will be used in College publications and on letterhead.

Anniversary plans underway

A Committee of faculty, staff and students has been struck to begin plans for this major celebration during the 1989-90 academic year. A Committee of faculty, staff and students has been struck to begin plans for this major celebration during the 1989-90 academic year. They include:

- an extensive history of the College will be written by Fr. Wahl and Gerry Stortz (see inside);
- a conference entitled "Educating for the Kingdom? - Church Related Colleges in English-Speaking Canada", will be co-sponsored with Conrad Grebel College;

- interviews with current and former presidents to record an oral history;
- an archival display within the College of photos and documents;
- a series of public lectures discussing the College's history and the personalities behind its founding;
- private anniversary labels for wine and beer used at College functions during 1989-90;
- a questionnaire to be sent to all graduates, former faculty and staff asking for reminiscences to be used in the writing of the College's history and also to be placed in the archives.

Distinguished Canadian authors visit College

It was a rare opportunity for St. Jerome's students and many others from across campus to hear two of Canada's most outstanding literary figures read from their recent works. Siegfried Hall was packed to capacity to hear Timothy Findley (top) read from his new anthology of short stories *Stones* on November 23. Robertson Davies (bottom) read from his new novel *The Lyre of Orpheus* to an equally full and appreciative house a week later.



Timothy Findley



Robertson Davies