



125 Years

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# Update!

Waterloo, Ontario  
Canada N2L 3G3

University of St. Jerome's College

*"A man of unquenching integrity"*

## A College bids farewell to its President

The tributes were many and generous, and they came from every quarter of College and campus life. They were characterized by sincerity, admiration, and emotion. Students, graduates, faculty, staff, and UW colleagues bid a fond farewell to Fr. Norm Choate, C.R., President of St. Jerome's since 1979, and chaplain and teacher during the early 1960s and mid-1970s.

Students had a chance to honour Fr. Norm at their annual Awards Night Banquet on March 31. They spoke admiringly of his concern for students and of his readiness to spend time with them.

For his part, Fr. Norm said to the over 300 students, faculty, and staff gathered that night at Spirits Restaurant at the Seagram Museum that "students have always been and are the joy of my life. I must be the luckiest university administrator in Canada. You (the students) have made a profound and wonderful difference in my life."

He continued by thanking students for their idealism and hopes, as well as for the many happy times they shared with him throughout his presidency. "And thank you for caring for me, for stopping by to say hello, and for sharing your life with me. You have given me your love and made my work as President more meaningful."

Fr. Norm's departure added a special poignancy to this year's Awards Night. His remarks were met with a prolonged and hearty standing ovation.

A formal testimonial dinner was held at the College in honour of Fr. Norm on April 21. Emceed by Board Chairperson J. Frank Clifford, the dinner was attended by faculty, staff, Board members, University of Waterloo administrators, Church College colleagues, political leaders and the College's Chancellor, Hamilton Bishop Anthony Tonnos.



(Photo by K. Drougham)

Fr. Norm was acknowledged for his achievements throughout ten years as President. He was praised for overseeing the building programme which added Siegfried Hall auditorium, a Board Room, offices and classrooms to the College. The College's outreach to the community flourished through such Choate-inspired initiatives as the St. Jerome's Centre for Catholic Experience and the publication of *Grail: An Ecumenical Journal*. His integral role in building a vibrant campus ministry programme was also cited.

Among those paying tribute to Fr. Norm was his colleague and successor as President, Dr. Doug Letson. In an eloquent tribute, Let-

son remarked that "it was my privilege to work closely with Fr. Norm, a close and warm friend, and a man of unquenching integrity. He is a just leader and cultured man who was willing to promote the arts. He reads, listens, attends, and has helped to build St. Jerome's College into a first-rate Canadian liberal arts College. Fr. Norm took pleasure in faculty publications and actually read them. He provided support and space for faculty and staff to explore new possibilities."

Fr. Fred Scinto, C.R., Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection, remarked that "Fr. Norm solidified the Catholic iden-

### PM sends congrats

*On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes as you mark the completion of your term as President of St. Jerome's College.*

*You may take great pride in your accomplishments and, I am certain, your colleagues and the many students you have taught welcome this opportunity to show you the esteem and affection in which you are held.*

*May you have every success in meeting the challenges ahead.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Brian Mulroney*

**Special  
issue ...**

• College says  
farewell to  
Fr. Norm Choate

• Reunion '89 Report

