

Relaunching the Ten Big Ones

“Business, obviously, has a fever—but it’s the whole society, including its religious heart, which has come down with the moral flu.”

John Dalla Costa is talking about the “summer of shame” of 2002, when a series of scandals in business, government, and the church followed the fall of Enron. All that high-profile lying, greed, and incompetence, with its fallout of lost pensions, jobs, and lives has undermined the bedrock of public trust on which society and the economy stand, Dalla Costa says. What can we do about it?

His answer is capsulized in the title of the 2002-03 Ignatian Lecture, “The Ten Commandments: A Theology for Business Leaders,” delivered at St. Jerome’s on January 24, 2003, as part of the St. Jerome’s Centre for Catholic Experience. Founder of the Centre for Ethical Orientation (CEO), a Toronto-based consulting firm, he is the author of four books on business ethics, including *The Ethical Imperative: Why Moral Leadership is Good Business* (1998).

He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Regis College.

Canadians are growing cynical, Dalla Costa says, and no wonder. Leaders in all spheres have been evading accountability for their actions, and not only the leaders. According to a recent Ernst and Young survey, one in four Canadian workers has committed some fraud against their employer. In such a world, cynicism may seem a smart defence. But as trust unravels, so does a sense of shared purpose.

Five years ago, you didn’t hear much talk of ethics in the boardroom. Now, says Dalla Costa, many CEOs agree that our institutions are in moral crisis, and that what we need is not more regulation, but more moral business people. To that end he recommends a new look at the Ten Commandments as “a framework for relationship, not a checklist of prohibitions.”

Not that he’s claiming business is inherently evil. “What I’m saying is that business is too important to be left untethered to some grounding morality,” he concludes. “Just as the Jews wangled to preserve the law under Roman occupation, we too must find the courage and imagination to name the Ten Commandments, and claim their meaning in our public dialogue.”



If a student calls

If a student calls from the University of Waterloo seeking your financial support, they are also calling on behalf of St. Jerome’s. This year, students will call seeking support for five SJU projects, two new and three ongoing.

They are:

- A graduate program in Roman Catholic Life and Thought
- A Chair in Quantum Computation
- Scholarships
- Handicapped accessibility projects
- The Centre for Catholic Experience lectures

To support one of these projects, simply tell your caller that you want to designate all or part of your gift to SJU.

And thank you!

John Dalla Costa, left, and Doug Letson, former president of St. Jerome’s University.

Environment fifth biennial conference, held at Boston University in June. ♦ A new book of essays about William Lyon Mackenzie King was launched at King’s childhood home, Woodside, in Kitchener last December. *Mackenzie King: Citizenship and Community* (Robin Brass Studio) was edited by professors John English and **Kenneth McLaughlin**, History, and St. Jerome’s alumnus **Whitney Lackenbauer**, BA ’98, currently finishing up his PhD at the University of Calgary. The book explores King’s K-W roots and how that upbringing may have influenced his political career. ♦ At St. Jerome’s annual Awards Night on March 29, the Zach Ralston Award went to **Maria Benadik**, a final-year student in English Language and Literature with a Religious Studies minor. The award recognizes the graduating student who manifests most

clearly the values and ideals of St. Jerome’s University: academic excellence, good citizenship, and contributions to community. ♦ Other graduating honours: **Lynn Chiniborch**, Sexuality, Marriage and the Family, and **Mark Orr**, English Language and Literature, won Community Contribution awards. **Kerri Schira**, Psychology, **Douglas Stebila**, Mathematics (Combinatorics and Optimization/ Computer Science), **Aaron Ursacki**, Mathematics (Computer Science), and **Amilynn Bryans**, Psychology, all won University Life awards. The Todd Earl Award, which recognizes the contributions of a first-year student to the spirit and vitality of the St. Jerome’s community, went to **Flavia Quintana-Escalona**, a first-year Religious Studies student, and the Douglas Letson Community Service Award was presented to **Tracy Pickard**, also in first-

