

Report of the Provost to Convocation 2011

Queen's College is among those venerable North American institutions whose roots reach well back into the nineteenth century. When the British North America Act of 1867 provided for the unification of Canadian provinces into "one Dominion under the name of Canada," Queen's College was already twenty-six years of age. At the beginning of World War I, the College was seventy-three years old and a hundred and four years at the beginning of World War II. At our confederation with Canada in 1949, Queen's College was one hundred and eight years old. The same institution which lived through the Depression of the 1930s has outlived the Death of God Movement in 1960s, and Woodstock in 1969, and so the story continues down to the present day.

2010 - 2011. In 2011, as Queen's College celebrates 170 years of history in this province, we remain committed to providing students with a rigorous academic program within a residential model, face-to-face education. We are committed to providing education and formation in which diversity is a given and growth is its natural consequence. We value those who come to us from other communities and professions. For not only do we engage theological study in this place, we also engage one another. We are committed to creating a safe space in our classrooms where students may bring their whole selves to the study of theology, and not only a safe space, but a space where all are respected and valued. Indeed the many and diverse voices of our time and society cry out to be heard.

We are committed to assisting students in broadening their horizons. During 2010,

our interns were found from Edinburgh, Scotland to Bethal, Alaska, from St. John's to Bay D'Espoir to Flowers Cove. Again, during our winter semester, we were offered a four week series on 'doing public theology,' which was for good effect for our students and those who participated from outside our immediate community. Also, we will miss hearing Inuktitut in our chapel liturgies.

Our faculty also represents diversity, from scholarship to personality. This has been one of our strengths over the years that we have so many to draw upon as our needs change and mature. We are very fortunate to have the scholarship and competencies of such a diverse group as well as their good will and good humour. We are more than grateful to our faculty - full time and adjunct - and all they do.

Curriculum. During the past academic year, in addition to our regular round of courses and academic pursuits, we have embarked upon new work. We have begun the process of offering our Associate in Theology program on-line. In the near future, we hope to offer this program, for the most part, on-line. We have begun working with the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador in providing faculty for their deacon's educational program. We have begun offering workshops, four during this year, in church and choral music. We have begun the process of offering our three-year Diploma in Theology and Ministry in Clarenville. We have established our commitment to professional development for caring professions such as social work, nursing, medicine and pastoral workers. In September we will offer our one-year Certificate in Pastoral Leadership. All of these efforts are in response to our desire to be provide a valuable

classroom experience as we engage one another in this pursue.

Chapel. Our chapel life, for those in our ordination programs, punctuates our corporate life in the daily liturgical celebrations. With care and humility, we gather to celebrate common prayer, which ultimately is formative and is an indispensable source of faith. We are committed to providing our ordination candidates with a chapel life in which they may become 'at home' with various liturgical forms and (they may become) effective presiders. This forms the core of our corporate life and has been one of our strengths over the years. We are grateful to all those who come to join us in our chapel each semester.

Susan Foley. In 1986, the College went looking for a secretary and an array of applicants put themselves forward. Fortunately for us, at the end of the process, Susan Foley was offered the position and has been with us ever since. Now twenty-five years later she is still with us as our Administrative Assistant. We are all more than grateful for her attention to detail, her organizational skills and her taking no nonsense from faculty or students alike. During Susan's twenty five years with us, Susan and I have worked together for eighteen years here. This fact is a testimony to Susan's enduring patience and my good fortune!

Dr. Tom Pope. During 2011, we mourned and celebrated the life of Dr. Tom Pope, a long, long time member of the Queen's College Corporation. Dr. Pope was an educator and a mentor who truly loved Queen's College and he championed our cause over many decades. During his tenure on Corporation, Tom was committed to theological education

in this province. To honour his contribution in education and his commitment to Queen's College and the church, the Bishop and Diocese of Central Newfoundland have instituted a new bursary, The Dr. Tom Pope Memorial Bursary, for love of church and ministry as demonstrated through commitment to continuing theological education. Later this evening, the first recipients of this bursary will be named.

Finances. Financially, we are not where we want to be, but, in reality, this is where we are. We know that there is an on-going role for theological education in this province in the same way as other professional schools: music, medicine, social work. We also know that many vocations would never have been developed without this College. We know that many, many others from many other professions would never have had the opportunity to develop their skills and learning without this College.

Over the past few years, with a downturn in the markets and subsequent drop in our investment income and fewer students, we have experienced serious financial difficulties.

While we realize that the College's endowment and investment funds are not adequate to provide income with our increasing costs, many good things have nevertheless happened this year. Our three dioceses now remit all Queen's College Appeal dollars to the College in addition to their diocesan grants. This is significant. Many more folk are contributing to the Queen's College Appeal, both individuals and parishes. Others have included the College in their wills and others have taken out annuities for the College. A number of parishes and families have come up with creative

ideas to contribute to our Appeal. One individual went as far as to suggest that ‘we pass the plate’ at Convocation! So while we have to pay more attention to our finances (and here I do not want to diminish the seriousness of this situation), we have much good will and this is incredibly significant to us. While our financial situation is serious, it is not unmanageable.

Thank you. In closing I join the Chancellor, in thanking you for your supporting us with your presence this evening, especially the families and friends of our graduates. And thank you to Dr. Daley and his family from the United States of America and to Dr. Cluett, our orator. Thank you the Honorable Ed Buckingham and Dr. Grant Gardner. Thank you to Rector and Wardens of St. Mary’s Parish who have made their facility available for our Convocation. And thank you to our Convocation speaker, Dr. Eric Beresford. Canon Beresford has been a friend of Queen’s College for many years. During my first attempt at being Provost of Queen’s College, and while Eric was consultant at Church House, Toronto. he was a frequent visitor to Queen’s College. We have always valued his presence with us and his scholarship, which he freely has shared with us. We are particularly grateful to him that, in the midst of his sabbatical, he found time to join us this evening. As time moves along, we hope to deepen our relationship with the Atlantic School of Theology. Thank you, Eric.

To the Graduates. And to the graduates, we have been more than fortunate to have had you with us and we thank you for this. Now you must leave us. Your foray into theological education is not an end in itself. May you continue to be life long learners and may you always know you have a home with us here.