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## GLORY AND HONOUR TO COLLÈGE ST-LOUIS!

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On March 22, 1946, Bishop Marie-Antoine Roy, O.F.M., first bishop of Edmundston, published a pastoral statement announcing the opening of a classical studies college at Edmundston. In offering you excerpts of this notable publication which is justly considered to be the first charter of this institution, I want to pay tribute, on behalf of the Diocese of Edmundston, to all who were involved in the launching of the Collège St-Louis, later to become St. Louis University, and finally the St-Louis-Maillet university campus. My gratitude goes to the 116 Eudist confreres who spared no effort in establishing the platform for graduate studies in the Madawaska region. Heartfelt thanks to all who picked up the new challenges as they arose in due course and who are still carrying on today. My thoughts also go to the students who courageously undertook or are undertaking university studies. At the dawn of the new millennium, this institution continues to give our milieu the qualified, wise and competent leaders so much needed by our society.

### A COLLEGE THAT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED

Bishop Roy writes: « As soon as We arrived in your midst We felt that our diocese would operate at a slower pace as long as it did not have a classical studies college, and that if we could forego for a while the building of an episcopal residence, we should not for all that put off the establishment of an intellectual powerhouse. When and how ought such an apparently complex but urgent project be accomplished? This question was practically an obsession with Us, for a long time. We pondered it, We prayed about it, We consulted and listened. During that time of appraisal and of restraint we apprehended like waves that were criss-crossing one another in the tranquil atmosphere, the yearnings of our dear people that had come to an awareness of its own adulthood and to pride of independence, and that aspired to progress and advancement. Views which at first blush seemed to be conflicting actually coalesced in a providential way in the direction of a common goal. The problems of a classical college had been examined even before Our appointment. Without delay but also without haste, we searched for a friendly solution. Thanks be to God that we found it in an atmosphere of understanding and of union of hearts. In this way was envisaged, will shortly rise up and operate this beacon of light; its rays will shine out over our diocese and also bring life-giving warmth. »

### HOPES TO BE FULFILLED

« Education is one of the vital questions », Bishop Roy continues. « Parents who benefit from this want to see their own children enjoy the same privilege. Those who were deprived of it want their offspring to be better treated than they themselves were. All of them with few exceptions claim this as an undeniable good. Our youth on whom our aspirations are pinned, the flowers and hope of our diocese, are also the primary matter for the formation of high calibre Christians, zealous priests, and valiant leaders. All of these ambitions are bent toward a fruitful future. There is hardly any need to add that preparing for this requires a threefold diploma composed of respect, love, and a teaching talent. Classical colleges respond to all of these objectives. The privileged people who follow through on this educational programme are very well equipped to launch out on the grand adventure of life, and they are ready to take up a promising career. Aware of the difficulty and length of the task they are taking up, they have stocked an plentiful provision of strengths and virtues which they will not have the time to otherwise collect, when these are needed. In this capital of enrichment and capitalization are to be found a harmonious blending of creative spiritual strength, the balanced energy of the will, a blameless conscience, greatness of heart, the dignity of thought and life, Christian habits which translate not only into personal action but also in mutual action, especially in pride of faith: in other words, all of those

powers of love and action that form one into a person, a Christian, an apostle. »

### **A HIGH IDEAL**

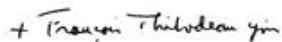
« Pasteur used to tell his students, 'Whatever career you choose, aim high!' The entire classical course offers the young person a high ideal, and it offers help in reaching it. The course initiates one to the practice of freedom and self-control, it harmonises heart and mind with the programme of Christ, it inoculate him with convictions based on solid principles, makes of him a knight of effort, a person inured to sacrifice, a champion of the truth, enthusiastic for the good, and an elevator of souls. What we need in these times of turmoil and uncertainty is fewer graduates and financiers and more individuals of sterling character, of staunch and energetic will, capable of initiative and persistence in work, zealous in devotion to duty and action, people who see clearly and quickly, who have intuition regarding what must be undertaken and who find the means for accomplishing it; people of high calibre and open mind who are willing to serve and decided to be useful to others, people with very definite Christian views who do not fear to state them, defend them, and especially honour them through example and zealously propagate them: in other words, people of heart and courage. It is to this end that a classical college aims, by directing its students to the heights of the real known, admired beauty, and the good carried out. »

### **DESERVING PIONEERS**

« Thanks to God, this so legitimately wished-for college will open its doors next September in Our episcopal city. We owe to the generous and truly providential groundwork of the Reverend Eudist Fathers the probably unique opportunity to carry our this project. We have no need to justify a religious congregation that played such a beneficial role in the Maritime Provinces. Let us only recall that to its credit the congregation has been exercising these 65 years in our midst a multi-faceted apostolate: it has given the Church 340 priests. Your children will have in them experienced teachers; they will admire in them apostles intent on forming apostles, great souls educating to greatness of soul, and hearts setting hearts afire. The Eudist Fathers are largely deserving from the Edmundston Diocese of which they are the distinguished benefactors. They will need the support and goodwill of everyone, in order to carry out their task. »

May these excerpts from Bishop Marie-Antoine Roy's masterly letter express my deepest gratitude to the Collège St-Louis pioneers and to all those who are carrying on the task begun in 1946.

Happy Anniversary!



+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.

Bishop of Edmundston

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