

Loyola College

Montreal Canada



RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

1955

We are now arrived at that stage of our Exercises where the Rector of the College makes his annual report.

I would first like to pay a deserving tribute to my academic and administrative staff, both Jesuit and Lay. I assure them that it has been due to their industry, their spirit of cooperation, their ideals and loyalty that the record of the past year is a good one. A College or University is as good as, and only as good as, its staff. It is heartening to know that our staff is fitted to accomplish the work which Loyola demands of them.

REGISTRATION

The total registration of the High School and College in the past scholastic year was 944, with 402 students registered in the University Faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce. This registration is substantially the same as that of last year because Loyola is at capacity, or, at least, at the maximum number which we can handle without endangering academic standards and efficiency. I note that the registration in the Faculty of Commerce is the same as that of last year, while the registration in the Faculty of Arts has slightly declined to make way for a slight increase in the Faculty of Science.

EXPANSION

This leads naturally to the problem of expansion. Unlike the period after the last War when Universities, and Loyola among them, had suddenly to cope with the registration of veterans through the D.V.A. without a chance to get ready for them, we now have time to prepare for the coming of the children who were born during the War and who will be starting University studies about 1959 or 1960. I anticipate that the current number of applications will increase 50% by 1965 and 100% by 1970. Loyola College has a duty to meet the needs of these students. It can do so only by expanding its present facilities and by adding new and necessary services for its students. This problem demands serious and realistic thinking.

FINANCES

Let it be said that no institute of learning in the world can subsist on the income it derives from its students. The published statistics of our two Universities in Montreal show that only 40% of their operating expenses is covered by the income derived from students. Loyola, on the other hand, where the fees are actually lower than these, and most other Universities in

Canada, has endeavored to make the income from students account for, not 40%, but 87% of its operating expenses. Even at this sacrifice, our ordinary expenses this year, as in former years, will be more than \$40,000.00 in excess of the income from our students; to this must be added \$31,000.00 for extraordinary but necessary expenses for hydro-electric, redistribution and for plumbing, thus making the total \$71,000.00 over our ordinary income from students.

Let us also remember that there are fifty-two Jesuits who donate their services free to our College, thus making a potential contribution in excess of \$200,000.00 which otherwise would have to be paid in cash.

However, the gap of \$71,000.00 remains. How is this gap to be filled? It will be attempted in three main ways: 1) by the generous outside ministry of our Jesuit staff who serve in your parishes and religious institutions, 2) by the occasional gifts made to the College, 3) by the assistance of grants from the government. I am pleased to state that our First Minister, Premier Maurice Duplessis, sent me a cheque which arrived only two days ago, a cheque for \$37,000.00. We are all aware of Mr. Duplessis' concern for Provincial rights in the field of education, and we realize in this tangible manner how he has made this splendid substitution for the Federal Grant concerning the Universities and Colleges in the Province of Quebec. I want to take this occasion to thank Mr. Duplessis publicly for this welcome and needed grant to Loyola College.

Nevertheless, it is evident that Loyola labours under serious financial problems connected with the education of our youth, and it endeavours to fulfill its high destiny at great sacrifice and concern. It is evident too that much thought will be necessary in order to respond to the demands of the future.

Let it never be said that Loyola College, or the friends of Loyola College, or those who have a responsibility in the education of our youth, will fail to support the only Catholic English-speaking institute of higher learning for men in the whole Province of Quebec. In this respect the position of Loyola College is unique.

STUDIES

Loyola has always endeavored to maintain high academic standards and, in this endeavour, it has guarded the rich tradition of western culture against the disturbing experimentalism and false philosophies of education which threaten our generation. But tradition itself does not mean an unthinking and unintelligent slavishness to the past as such. Like the Church,

tradition in western culture adapts itself to the needs of the modern world without losing its strength and wisdom.

*Be not the first by whom the new are tried,
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside.*

When this College strengthened its Science Faculty in 1943 it liberalized what had been, and is still, a field shot through with a kind of sterile materialism which starves many needs in the balanced development of a student; and so Loyola had Science students and Engineering students take philosophy along with their other courses. Similarly, when this College began its Faculty of Commerce in 1948 it had its Commerce students study philosophy and some of the courses in Humanities and the Social Sciences.

Next year Loyola College will introduce a change in its Faculty of Arts by offering continuation courses so that students may have the opportunity for intensification in whatever field of study they are most fitted for. Such a change will not imperil the traditions of this College but will rather strengthen and deepen them. In addition, it will align our courses with those of other Canadian Universities, and it will lay the foundations for honours courses on the undergraduate level as well as for work on the post-graduate level. This new system of studies will begin this coming September.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I now turn to the extra-curricular activities of our student-body in which Loyola maintains its traditional role of encouraging the rounded development of its students.

The Debating Society concerned itself with intra-mural debates, with the Montreal Debating Union, with occasional debates such as the one against the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University. But its main work was in the Inter-University Debating League of Quebec and Ontario. In this last, Loyola won the championship by defeating teams representing the Universities of McGill, Bishops', Ottawa and Osgoode Hall Law School.

The Dramatic Society again distinguished itself this year by the production of the Shakespearean play, *Coriolanus*, which received generous but discriminating praise from the professional critics. The director, Mr. John Buell, is to be commended for his generous labours in making it the success it was. A new departure in the tradition of Loyola was the introduction of women-students from Marianopolis College who played the female roles.

The choral group under the direction of Alan Stack, B.A. '55, has become a respected and well-loved activity of our students, singing mostly in the Chapel, and choosing from its repertoire the finest examples of liturgical and traditional Masses, hymns, and carols.

The Sodality has been called 'the heart of the College', and I am pleased with the work it has done during the year; it assisted at the annual retreat for all students, it sponsored four closed retreats for one hundred of our University students at our Beaconsfield Retreat House; its apostolic programme included help for the needy at Christmas time, recreation for under-privileged children, visits to the sick in Hospitals, teaching catechism to the blind, financial aid to the extent of \$1,000.00 for the missions and the Catholic Federated Charities. Besides this, it carried on its own private regular spiritual exercises. This society deserves great praise.

The students edit their own newspaper, *The Loyola News*, their *Loyola College Review*, and *The Amphora*, which contains original work in verse and prose, as well as literary criticism. Like most student publications I have known elsewhere in other Universities, our Loyola students' publications are in the tradition of experiencing minor crises in respect of policy and major crises in respect of production. But I am happy to say that the *Review* for this year is now published and in the hands of the students, thereby accelerating its appearance considerably in advance of former years.

There is an Arts Society, a Commerce Society, and a Science Students' Association, each of which pursues well-planned programmes including a monthly publication, debates, lectures, films, organized tours of business and industrial corporations. I commend the ideals of these Societies, but I trust that they will be a source of union rather than division in the student-spirit of Loyola.

The C.O.T.C. has had a long and honourable history at Loyola, and this past year it has shown a renewed vitality under the devoted leadership of its Commanding Officer, Major Norman Dann. The R.C.A.F. and the U.N.T.D. are relative newcomers to the College, turning out their candidates in the best tradition of the Air Force and Navy respectively. I desire to see all these services flourish and be a credit to the high tradition of the College.

Loyola strives to train not only minds and personalities but also bodies - *Mens sana in corpore sano*. I am pleased with the efforts of the students and the coaches in the Department of Athletics this past year, and with the Director of Athletics, Mr. E. Meagher, who acted in a general advisory capacity for our

University students.

Intra-mural leagues at the College provided schedules in Football, Basketball, bowling, and a rather lethal sport imported by our veterans ten years ago called Floor-hockey. I attach great importance to Intra-mural athletics for they assist much in the moulding of College spirit.

Loyola Extra-mural athletics provided competition from other Universities in the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Valley Conference: McGill, Sir George Williams, Carleton, Ottawa University, Queen's, Bishops', and the College Militaire Royal. Loyola teams won the championship in Golf and Soccer, finished second in Hockey, Skiing, and Basketball; our Football team showed spirit and courage but they won no prizes. I would like to see more support from the whole student-body for these teams which represent them and which can be a credit to them and to their College.

Loyola College has a distinguished body of Alumni and we are proud of them in their varied walks of life. My researches show, in part, that there are 253 Loyola Alumni in the diocesan and regular clergy, that there are 192 in Law of whom six are judges, that there are 131 practising medicine, 113 in engineering positions, and so on. In the recent 84th General Meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, at which I was present, I met a number of Loyola Alumni, among them Mr. J. C. Whitelaw, Q.C., of the class of '29, who is the General Manager of this important group in Canada's economic life.

During the past year, Mr. Norman Dann concluded the term of his Presidency of the Alumni and he was succeeded by Mr. Ralph Bourassa. They have a strong executive, and I want to testify to their loyalty, their vision, and their lofty idealism. Their activities embrace the spiritual life in closed retreats, the Memorial Mass, Rosary recitation over the air, as well as the social life in the Oyster Party, the At Home Dinner, the Recognition Dinner, as well as the athletic life in their golf tournament. In addition they have formed recently an Alumni Fund for Loyola to provide scholarships for Loyola Alumni which already has a capital in excess of \$10,000.00. I look forward to an even greater development of the Loyola College Alumni, and I attach the greatest importance to their work and ideals.

And now my final words are to the Graduating Class of 1955. It is difficult to express adequately what I would like to say to you who have been with us, some of you for eight or even nine years, during the most important period of your lives. You have established an intimate relationship with Loyola which I trust will always endure in affection and loyalty. On our part we

have tried earnestly and humbly to give you the best we could of the great and glorious tradition of Jesuit education over the past four hundred years.

We send you forth with pride and confidence into the larger world. We shall watch your progress with great interest knowing that you have learned sound religious principles for use in a world which is, for the most part, religiously illiterate, knowing that you have a sound philosophy of life to withstand the intellectual uncertainties of our age, knowing that you have a certain mental maturity which will deepen with the years, knowing that you will strive to be worthy compeers of those who have gone out from Loyola before you and who have helped to make the name of Loyola College honourable and great. I wish you God-speed!

May 30, 1955

Very Rev. Gerald F. Labey, S.J.