

REPORT OF THE PHILOSOPHY SUB-COMMITTEE

King's University College is a small, co-educational Catholic College, affiliated with the University of Western Ontario and sponsored by the Diocese of London. As a Christian community of higher learning, King's has as its goal the academic excellence of its faculty and students in an environment which acknowledges the Christian vision, conveys its teachings, and promotes its values while creating a community that fosters the overall personal growth of its members.

King's University College is committed to scholarly excellence and seeks to attain it through creating an environment in which creative learning can be achieved. Scholarly teachers, promising students, well-considered courses and programmes, an atmosphere of open inquiry, a good undergraduate library, adequate physical facilities, and competent and sympathetic administrators constitute this environment.

The character of a College is to be found in its understanding of the nature of each person, and of the world, and of the actions which flow from that understanding. This understanding is founded in a personal faith in God, as manifested in His Son, Jesus the Christ. As part of the continuing tradition of Christian faith, the College also must act as a critic of it, attempting to discriminate between the authentic and the inauthentic elements both in the tradition and in the College itself.

The College is also dedicated in a special way to the creation of a community, not just of thinkers, but also of believers, and of concerned agents in the world. While the immediate effort is towards the local community, the fuller goal of the College as Catholic is to graduate men and women of the human family at large. King's University College thus attempts to pursue its objective in three ways: it engages in the work of teaching, learning and research; it strives to form an authentic human community within the College; it acts as a witness in a variety of ways to its own understanding of life by its responsible action on behalf of the whole human community.

A College such as King's draws its members from all faiths and religious persuasions. While it would be impossible to have a vital centre of Catholic intellectual reflection and social criticism without a significant number of articulate and committed Catholics, those members of the College who are not Catholic can and do make very important contributions to the institution. They bring a healthy and necessary diversity of points of view, keep the College from being isolated and turned in upon itself and, at the same time, challenge the College to be true to the best of the Catholic tradition. Those who become part of the College should recognize the distinctive characteristics which Catholicism gives to the institution and its concerns.

Because a love of God and a deep reverence for the human person are at the heart of the Christian gospel, the College sees itself as person-centred. This love of God is best expressed in the quality of relationships among persons. This quality is an especially urgent concern in an era in which men and women are increasingly experiencing an oppressive sense of isolation, anonymity, fearfulness and personal impotence. This sense is countered by the Christian vision embodied in a proper learning environment. Thus, within the context of a Catholic educational institution, human interaction should be marked by full and free communication between all sectors, mutual accessibility, honesty and mutual responsibility. As part of this honesty there should be the readiness to acknowledge, and allow for our mutual failures in our efforts to speak and listen to each other. This kind of human interaction both presupposes and affects the unique dignity and worth of every person.