



*The cross on The Fielding Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's at Thorneloe University
(Photograph hanging in Bishophurst - gifted from Susan Moores and family)*

Thorneloe University: Sixty and beyond.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5. 16

For sixty years, Thorneloe University has been a beacon of light on the Laurentian University's campus, drawing students from every corner of the country to its classrooms and residence. Thorneloe's graduates left informed and formed to take their place in society. This is an historic week for the Greater City of Sudbury, for members of the Thorneloe community, and for the Diocese of Algoma.

June 30th will be the last day of Thorneloe's existence as we know it today, following the announcement this spring by Laurentian University that it planned to terminate the 60 year old agreement with the three federated universities on the campus – Thorneloe being one of them. We will be losing the Ancient Studies, Classical Studies, Religious Studies, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies programs. Thousands of students are looking elsewhere to continue their studies in the subjects that have become their passion.

The dedicated faculty of Thorneloe, professors for whom this work is their expertise, a vocation and not a job, have had their contracts terminated. Many, if not all of them, will be leaving the community in order to find employment in their field. Their loss will leave a big hole in the Sudbury area as their influence went beyond the Thorneloe campus into the city square. Many have been advocates for women's rights and members of the LGBTQS+ community, and all of them, through their ongoing research, have published books and articles which have contributed to the stature of Thorneloe.

In his final report as the faculty representative on the Thorneloe Board of Governors, Dr. Louis L'Allier, Professor of Ancient Studies/Classical Studies, recently thanked board members for their efforts in trying to preserve Thorneloe through the recent negotiations. He spoke eloquently about the passionate way in which faculty members embraced their calling, desiring to leave their mark on their field of study as they helped young minds develop.

While Thorneloe is much diminished by Laurentian's de-federation, it is not finished! On July 1st, Thorneloe will continue to offer university level courses in its School of Theology which remains totally unaffected by Laurentian's actions.

The School of Theology is an entity all on its own with the Diploma in Theology (Dip.Th) and the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th) degree being conferred directly by

Thorneloe at its annual convocation ceremony. These courses, as well as the non-degree studies and Certificate for Anglican Lay Leaders, will continue to be offered.

The aim of the School of Theology is, in the words of St. Paul, “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” (Ephesians 4.12-13)

The School of Theology is now poised to become much more than it has ever been before as the current programs are reshaped and reimagined for a changing church and world.

And who better to lead an Anglican School of Theology into its new future than its current president, the Rev. Canon Dr. John Gibaut, a learned, faithful and godly man. Before coming to Sudbury, Canon Gibaut served as the director for Faith, Unity and Order for the Anglican Communion. In 2008, he was appointed as the Director of the World Council of Churches Commission of Faith and Order based in Geneva Switzerland. And, prior to taking on that role, he was a professor of the Faculty of Theology at St. Paul’s University in Ottawa. In that role, Canon Gibaut served as Director of Anglican studies, teaching in the areas of ecumenism, liturgy, church history, historical theology, and Anglican studies.

In a citation given prior to Canon Gibaut receiving the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa at Trinity College in 2017, the former Metropolitan of Ontario, Archbishop Colin Johnson, spoke about Canon Gibaut as being the principal editor of *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* which, in 2013, the World Council of Churches named as one of its greatest recent achievements about the Church of the Triune God as it grows in communion and struggles together for peace and justice in the world. *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* addresses the Church’s apostolic faith, and sacramental ministry; its mission and unity as being ‘in and for the world’.

Archbishop Johnson also described Canon Gibaut’s unique gifts and many strengths by naming him, “Peacemaker, Interpreter, Theological Reconciler, Educator and Ambassador.” All of these are needed now, more than ever, at Thorneloe.

The 58 room residence at Thorneloe is open for business, preparing to welcome new and returning students on September 5th. It has always been one of the most popular residences on campus fostering the intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual growth of all who live there. Offering a strong family environment, the residence at Thorneloe strives to nurture meaningful and supportive relationships amongst the residents.

And the Fielding Memorial Chapel of St. Mark’s remains open with weekly services resuming this fall.

There is an ending in Sudbury this week. But it is not the end of Thorneloe. The next chapter begins on July 1st and I am looking forward to being part of it. Like a city built on a hill, its light shining forth for all to see, refusing to be dimmed, Thorneloe's light will continue to shine.

The 'ties that bind' us to Thorneloe

The Dioceses of Algoma and Moosonee have close ties to Thorneloe University. A number of clergy and laity are graduates of Thorneloe, both in the Arts and Humanities programs and in the School of Theology. Algoma has always been represented on the Thorneloe Board of Governors by leaders whose voice and contribution to the work of the board is invaluable.

Many Algoma Anglicans have received the distinguished "Fellow of Thorneloe" award for their contribution to the university over many years. Mrs. Barbara Bolton, former Chancellor of Thorneloe and Mrs. Mary Donato are two Epiphanites who come to mind.

At the last 'in person' Convocation ceremony in the fall of 2019 Archdeacon Deborah Kraft received a Doctorate of Sacred Letters. Other notable Anglican recipients of honorary doctorates at Thorneloe are the retired Bishop of Moosonee, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, Mark Macdonald, and Dr. Matthew Larkin, organist and music director at St. Thomas Anglican Church Toronto.

Dr. David Gould, a long time parishioner at St. Luke's Cathedral and well known in Anglican circles for his paper on the use of 'The Common Cup' following the SARS outbreak in Toronto two decades ago was the recipient of 'The Thorneloe Mitre' in 2014.

In 2012, Camp Manitou Bay of Islands volunteers were presented with the Thorneloe Mitre and at that same ceremony Anne Cole, a member of St. John the Divine in Copper Cliff, was awarded an Honourary Doctorate of Canon Law for her volunteer work with Camp Manitou and other organizations.

There are also other ties with the Anglican church.

The Rev. Dr. GailMarie Henderson, Incumbent of the Parish of Muskoka Lakes, teaches Pastoral Theology at the School of Theology and oversees all field placements.

All of the past presidents of Thorneloe have been active members of the Diocese of Algoma, ably serving locally in parishes and on the councils of the Diocese of Algoma and the wider church. In addition to their work at the university the presidents have also served as Honourary Associates in Sudbury parishes. Outstanding scholars in their field of study they freely shared their knowledge and learning, leading bible and book studies in their parishes.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacker, often travelled to Thunder Bay to lead that deanery's 'New Testament Boot Camp', and led many book and bible studies in the parish where he served. He is now the Dean of the Trinity College Theological School on the campus of Melbourne University in Australia.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, who served as Thorneloe's President at the time that I graduated from Thorneloe, was elected 10th Bishop of Algoma in 2008. He now serves as the Principal of Wycliffe College in Toronto.

The current President, Canon Gibaut, is the Bishop's appointee on Algoma's Executive Committee of the diocese and serves as the part time interim incumbent of the Church of the Ascension.

Having been a student and graduate, a member of the Board of Governors, and now privileged to serve as its Chancellor, I give thanks for Thorneloe as a place of higher learning and for its life and witness in the Sudbury community and beyond.

Many people are unaware that the Synod of the Diocese of Algoma had an important role to play in the beginning of Laurentian University and the three Federated Universities of Thorneloe (Anglican), University of Sudbury (Roman Catholic), and Huntington University (United Church).

In celebration of all that Thorneloe has been and will continue to be here is a brief history of its early days.

The origins of Thorneloe University

The late 1950s and early 1960s were a period of enormous growth for the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Algoma, and most particularly in Sudbury where new parishes being formed all around the city. The Church of the Ascension and the Church of the Resurrection came into being from the mission of the Church of the Epiphany in the downtown core.

There was also discussion in that time about the establishment of a 'University in the North' to be built in Sudbury.

The Bishop of Algoma at that time was Archbishop William Wright - a man of immense stature and great vision. In his Charge to the 19th Session of the Synod of Algoma in 1959 he referred to the University in the North and his belief that the "Church should be represented on any university campus"¹ and that an Arts course, as well as Science and Forestry, should be offered at such an institution. Archbishop Wright urged the people of the church as well as members of the local community to support this new and exciting endeavour in every way they could, including financially.

Two years later, at the 20th Session of the Synod of Algoma in 1961, Archbishop Wright spoke about the new Laurentian University, and the exciting development that in the years between synods negotiations had been carried out between Laurentian University, the Provincial Government and representatives of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Churches.



Archbishop William Lockridge Wright holding the Pastoral Staff which was presented to Archbishop George Thorneloe at the first Synod of Algoma, 1906

(Photo source Diocese of Algoma Archives - Algoma University)

Archbishop Wright's request of the Algoma Synod was to give their concurrence for this to happen, which it gave.

With Synod's concurrence and the granting of its university Charter from the Ontario Government to be a church-related university serving the Federation of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Thorneloe University came into being. The first students

registered at Thorneloe in 1962 and within a year they were learning in the newly constructed building 'up the hill' on Laurentian's main campus.



Thorneloe University on Laurentian Campus early 1960

(Photo source Diocese of Algoma Archives - Algoma University)

Founded on the three - legged Anglican stool of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, and holding onto its values of community, diversity and inclusion, Thorneloe has made its mark on the Laurentian campus for the last sixty years.

From small beginnings, with just a handful of arts courses being offered, by 2020 Thorneloe had grown to having five departments and programs – Ancient Studies, Classical Studies, Religious Studies, Theatre and Motion Arts, and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. While the degrees in the humanities were conferred by the Senate of Laurentian University, all of the courses in these programs were taught by professors at Thorneloe University.

The Fielding Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's - 'The gem on the hill'



*The Fielding Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's at Thorneloe University
(Photo source Sudbury.com)*

The distinctive and architecturally beautiful Fielding Chapel of St. Mark was built in 1968. Once again it was the Algoma Synod in 1965 which identified the need for a proper Chapel on the campus of Thorneloe University to 'provide a tangible and imposing witness to our belief that the life of our University and the life of each Thorneloe student ought to be centred on the worship of God.' (Thorneloe University 2017)

The Chapel's chief architect was Arthur Townend who designed many of Sudbury's landmark buildings. There is significance and meaning in the design and lighting of the seven walled Chapel, recalling the seventh day of creation when God rested. As light pours into the sanctuary through the stained glass windows throughout the day the colour inside is transformed, changing from deep blue in the morning to cyan at noon and yellow in the early evening. The concrete walls are adorned with several unique icons by the Ottawa iconographer Michael O'Brien.

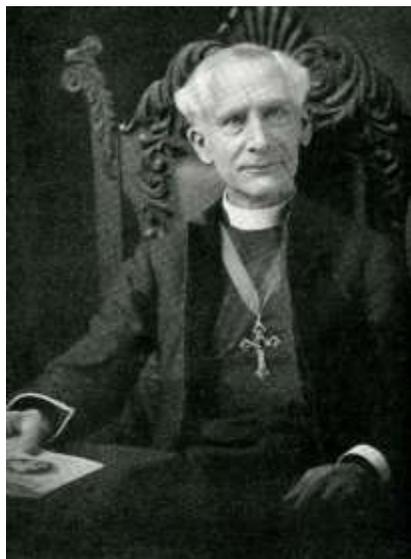
Over the years, the Chapel has been a safe and sacred space in which people of all denominations have gathered to hear God's holy word and break bread together at the holy table. The guitar playing Bishop of Rupert's Land, the Rt. Rev. Geoff Woodcroft, once served as the Assistant Chaplain at St. Mark's. The Sunday evening folk masses, followed by pizza, were a highlight of the week for many Anglicans who attended services at their own parishes in the morning but wouldn't miss a Sunday evening at the Chapel. Advent Lessons and Carol Services were a highlight for many people in the Sudbury community each year, as was the Easter Vigil celebration.

As soon as Covid restrictions are lifted, Eucharist services during the week will resume at St. Mark's Chapel.

In recent years and in honour of the Fielding family who made a great financial contribution to the Chapel, it was renamed the Fielding Memorial Chapel of St. Mark's. Renovations to the interior included the installation of running water, the addition of a small kitchenette a barrier free washroom, and a ramp to make the Chapel easily accessible.

Thorneloe's namesake

Thorneloe University was named after Archbishop George Thorneloe, the third missionary Bishop of Algoma. He was elected Bishop in 1896 and in 1915 he became Metropolitan of Ontario. He led the Diocese of Algoma through the First World War, the Spanish Flu, and the Great Depression, witnessing firsthand the immense suffering brought about by each of these around the world.



Thorneloe's namesake, Archbishop George Thorneloe

Archbishop Thorneloe chaired the first Synod of Algoma on June 6th 1906 which is when the diocese became entirely self-governing.

Archbishop Thorneloe continues to be remembered in the church as a scholarly shepherd who tended to the spiritual needs of his loyal flock faithfully and conscientiously for three decades.

His work was recognized by a number of institutions of higher learning, and Archbishop Thorneloe received honorary doctorates from Bishop's University, Trinity College and Oxford University.

It is not surprising that Thorneloe University was named after him.

“The name Thorneloe recalls to mind a venerable, devoted, godly saint of the Church who laboured abundantly for over thirty years in the Diocese of Algoma as the chief shepherd.

To me it is a glorious name to be linked with our new college.”

(Archbishop William Wright in his Charge to the 20th Synod of Algoma in Spring of 1961)

60 and beyond – Thorneloe's future.

On June 30th there will be a small gathering of faculty, staff, members of the Board of Governors, and friends of the Thorneloe community to celebrate all the good that has come from Thorneloe over the last 60 years, and to look with hope to its new future.

There will be laughter as there always is when the Thorneloe community gathers.

There will be tears as we bid farewell to dedicated faculty who have worked faithfully and diligently, generously imparting knowledge while caring deeply for their students in their care.

There will be expressions of thanks to those who have worked courageously and graciously through the last challenging months following Laurentian's decision to terminate the agreement.

In the midst of the tears and laughter God's grace will abound, weaving its way into our gathering, bringing with it the gift of hope and the fresh winds of new possibilities.

When the Synod of Algoma gathers for its 50th Synod in September of this year, it will commemorate the founding of Thorneloe University in its opening Eucharist at St. Luke's Cathedral. This service will be livestreamed from St. Luke's, beginning at 7pm and everyone is invited to attend virtually.

Let us pray for Thorneloe University with thankful hearts for the knowledge and wisdom that has been shared, for memory that enables us to build on the experiences of the past, for imagination which admits us to a wider world than we could otherwise know, and for foresight by which we must plan for the future.

Let us give thanks for the opportunity Algoma has been given to be part of the Thorneloe family, for the dedication and wisdom of those entrusted with positions of responsibility in this time of uncertainty, and for those whose lives have been affected by the termination of the agreement with Laurentian.

May we, believing in the resurrection, trust in the continuing work of God's Holy Spirit in and among us now and in the future.

+Anne: Algoma