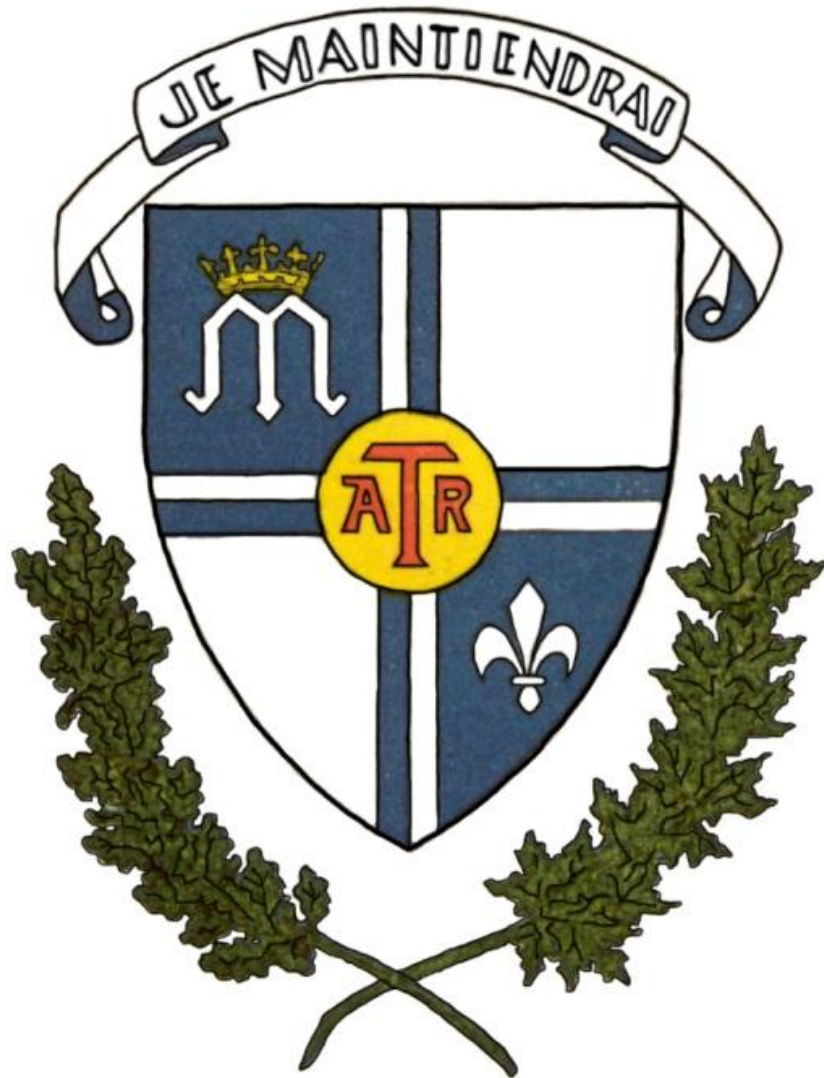


# Thoughts on Assumption Prep, Its Mission, the Class of APS65, and Me

Leo Laverdure, APS'65

22 Août 2015

50<sup>th</sup> Reunion



***Je maintiendrai.***

“I will uphold.”

- But what precisely will I uphold?
- And how has it worked out?

APS

fleur-de-lis



French

fleur-de-lis



French Canadian

fleur-de-lis

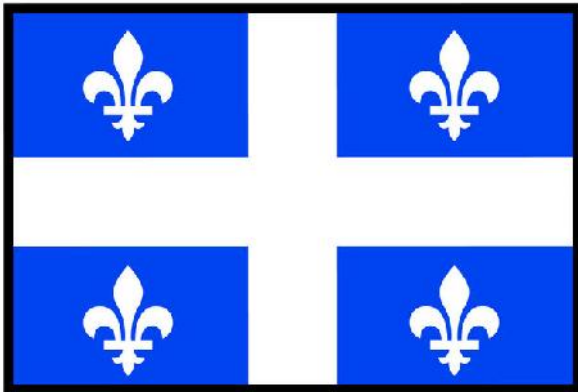


Franco-American flag



Flag of

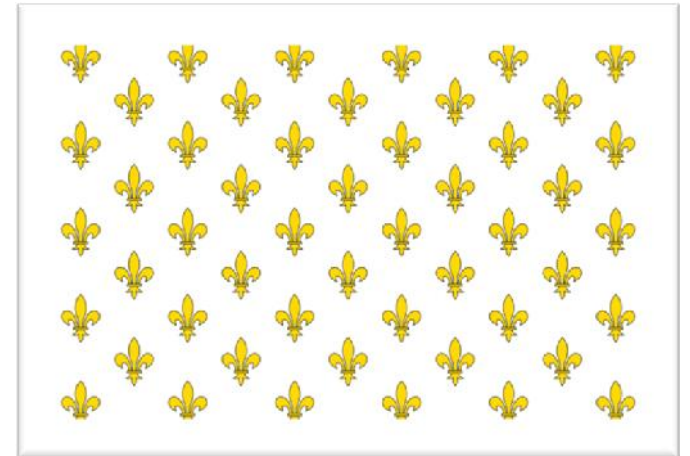
Quebec Province



Coat of Arms of  
Quebec Province

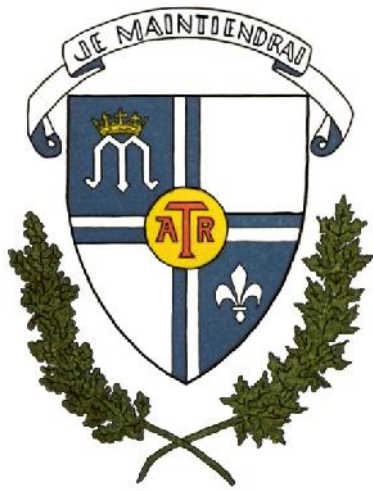


Flag of French  
Royal Family





State coat of arms of the Netherlands



J  
E  
M  
A

F A I T H

N

A S S U M P T I O N P R E P

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A M E R I C A N

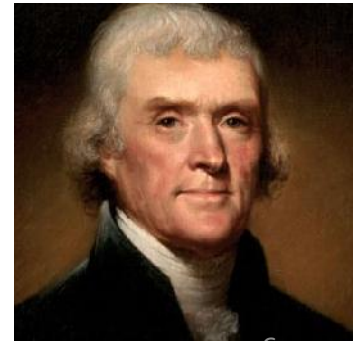
A

H E R I T A G E

# The Essential Tension in “Je maintiendrai”: Thomas Jefferson Quotes

*“As new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, **institutions must** advance also, and **keep pace with the times.**”*

*“In matters of **style**, swim with the current; in matters of **principle**, stand like a rock.”*



# Milestones

- 1900 – All religious orders (including Assumptionists) exiled from France
- 1904 – Assumption “alumnate”/ “apostolic school” founded
  - “Our Lady of Consolation, Apostolic School of the Assumptionist Fathers”
  - Courses taught in French, boarders only, 7 days a week, 6-week summer break
- 1905 – Religious orders readmitted to France
- 1911 – “Assumption College”; “a seminary”
- 1929 – Paul Claudel, French Ambassador and playwright, visits Assumption
- 1930 – More students needed
  - “Day-hops” admitted (French speaking)
  - Local-area boarders allowed to return home Saturday noon, return Sunday 8pm
- 1931 – “Je maintiendrai” adopted
- 1941 – School admits non-French speakers (who must learn French)
- 1943 – First thoughts of separate College
- 1946 – First non-French Assumptionist Superior in US (Fr. Dufault, Franco-American)
- 1947 – Birth year for most of APS65
- 1953, Jun – Tornado destroys buildings, killing 3
- 1954 – College separates

# Milestones (continued)

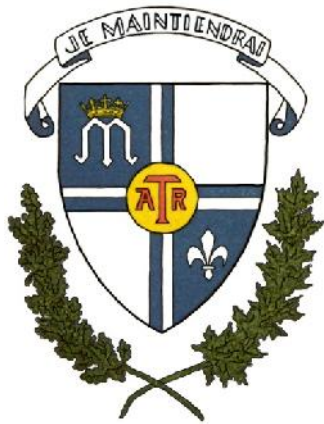
- 1955 – High school first referred to as Assumption Preparatory School in its brochure
- 1961, Sep – APS 65 class enters
- 1961, Dec – APS incorporated
- 1963, Jun – Building program announced
- 1964/5 – APS performs 2 Paul Claudel plays
  - *L'Annonce faite à Marie*
  - *Le Soulier de satin*
- 1965 – APS 65 graduates
- 1968 – APS considers admitting co-eds
- 1970, Jun – APS closes
- 1970, Oct – APS buildings and grounds sold to QCC
- 1971 – Assumption Preparatory School, Inc. dissolved



# 1929 – High Point of French Culture in Worcester

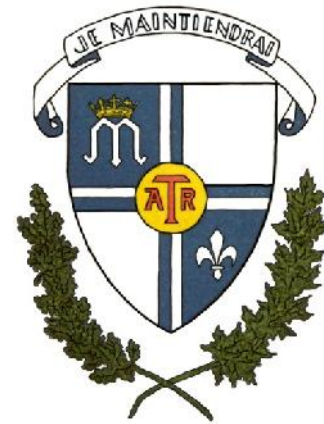
- Assumption Silver Jubilee: 3-day visit of the French Ambassador to the US, Paul Claudel
  - “Greatest reception of my career”
- “*La Sentinelle* Affair” resolved with capitulation of Franco-American activists
  - Franco-American parishes in Diocese of Providence accept to have their collections used to fund English-speaking Catholic schools
  - Excommunicated leaders readmitted to the Catholic Church

# 1931 – “Je maintiendrai” adopted



High School  
& College

*Je maintiendrai*  
(I will uphold)



APS only

*Donec formetur Christus in vobis*  
(Until Christ be formed in you)



1953 Tornado



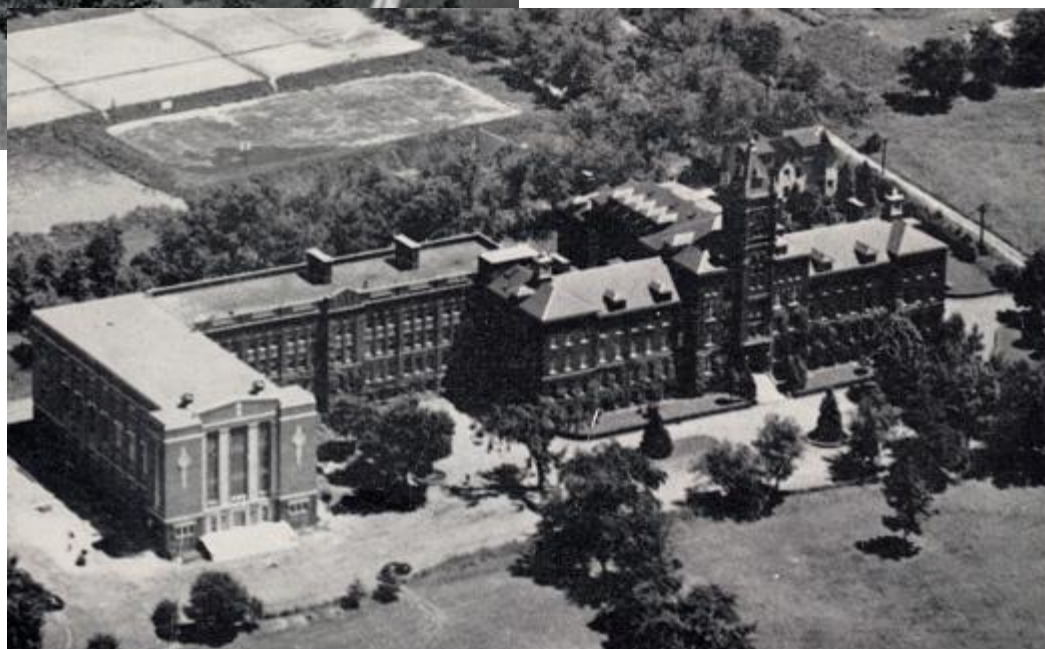
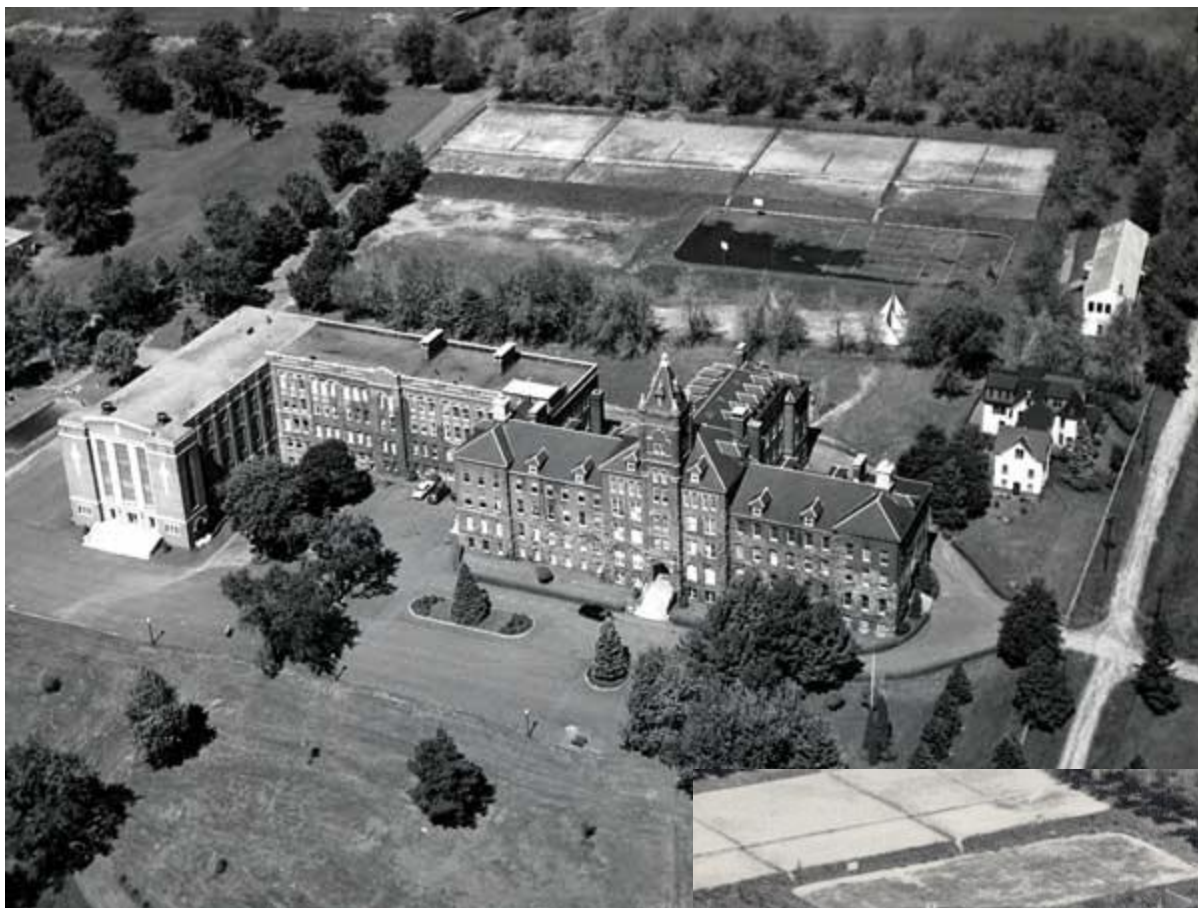
1931

1954

1970

Today

# AHS & College 1904 - 1953



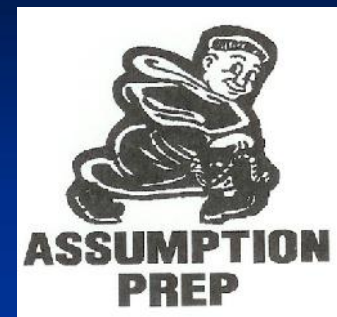
June 9, 1953  
5:12 P.M.



"My room is the one at the extreme right on the corner front (red circle). I left the room as mud and hail pelted the windows which face south. The axis of the building is north-south."  
Fr. Alexis Babineau, A.A. - Tornado Survivor

# The Top 10 Things I Learned at Assumption

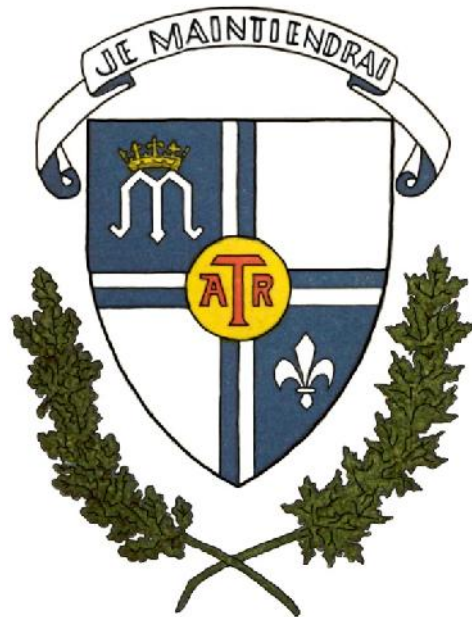
10. How to pronounce my name
9. Speaking French can change your life
8. The extra food goes to the waiters
7. *Mens sana in corpore sano*
6. Hard work pays off
5. Passion is more important than money
4. *Ama et fac quod vis*
3. Keys: connectedness, compassion, contribution
2. Collaboration & co-opetition beat competition
1. APS friends are friends for life



*Leo Laverdure* <sup>13</sup>

## En Somme, ...

- ✦ J'ai retrouvé (en bonne partie)
- ✦ L'esprit de "Je maintiendrai"  
continue en nous tous



Bio for Leo Laverdure,  
APS '65; Harvard College, AB '69

**A “Born-again Frenchman”**



Laverdure