

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB (left), Dr. Jonathan Raymond, and Senator Gerry St. Germain all praised Dr. Christine Jones at her installation as president of Redeemer Pacific College.



President's choice

College leader finds redemption

Redeemer Pacific lands new president, only second since school's birth in '99

By Brent Mattson

Redeemer Pacific College's newest president, Dr. Christine Jones, may march to the beat of her own drum, but she also doesn't mind singing along with the group.

Dr. Jonathan Raymond, president of Trinity Western University, noticed this as Dr. Jones sang along with the choir during her Oct. 15 installation Mass at St. Nicholas Church in Langley.

"I could tell that she had sung in a choir, because she was not singing the melody," he said. "She was singing another part, and it blended in so beautifully, and I thought,

'Here's a leader who knows how to sing with others.'"

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, celebrated the Mass and officially installed Dr. Jones as the second president of Redeemer Pacific College, which is affiliated with Trinity Western University. She replaced Tom Hamel, who founded the college with the help of Trinity Western and many from the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

During his speech Archbishop Miller told Dr. Jones to follow the spirit of Blessed John Henry Newman, who, as a Catholic educator, integrated intellectual pursuits

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Jones aspires to make faith come alive

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with holiness. Blessed Newman “presented a coherent and compelling vision of what it means to be an educated Christian.”

Archbishop Miller said the goal of Catholic higher education goes beyond utilitarian goals of teaching people to do useful things so they can find employment after they graduate. He insisted the goal of a Catholic liberal arts education should be to create well-formed lay men and women.

In her address, Dr. Jones said this distinct Christian view of education is alive and well at Redeemer Pacific, and she is excited about her new role.

The students “live a true fellowship both with each other and with their faculty and staff, and support one another in an exceptional way,” she said. “Those of us who live out our daily lives at the college know that we are ‘surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.’”

She said the goal of the faculty is to make students’ faith alive and relevant through Catholic liberal-arts education.

“As they study the great patrimony which is our Catholic spiritual, intellectual, and moral tradition, they are helped to examine everything they have received from tradition in such a way as to make that inheritance their own.”

Dr. Raymond’s sentiments matched those of Dr. Jones. He said Redeemer Pacific and TWU have a sacred partnership: they are always working for God and God is always at work.

“In higher education every university aspires to produce graduates of competence, but together we aspire to produce grad-



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Redeemer Pacific faculty members Dr. Brook Herbert (left), Dr. Chris Morrissey, and Dr. Robert Stackpole recite a profession of faith along with new president Dr. Christine Jones (right).

uates of competence and character, and by character I mean in the likeness of Jesus Christ,” Dr. Raymond said.

Those attending included Mayor Peter Fassbender of the City of Langley, Acting Mayor Grant Ward of Langley Township, Langley MLA Mary Polak, Abbotsford South MLA John van Dongen, and South Surrey MP Russ Hiebert. Senator Gerry St. Germain also spoke at the ceremony.

Dr. Jones has a BA from UBC and an MA and PhD from McGill. She has 17 years of teaching and administrative experience from SFU, UBC, the University of Montreal, McGill, and Redeemer Pacific.

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Dr. Christine Jones holds up the medal of St. Luke after her installation as president of Redeemer Pacific College.