

1990

# President's Report of Main Hall renovations

St. Norbert College

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## President's Report 1990

*"The ninth of May, 1901, is to be set down as a red-letter day in the history of St. Norbert's (College). A meeting was then called at the newly-established (Norbertine) priory....The consensus of the prelates and the clergy assembled was: to erect an up-to-date college...."*

*"In the year 1902 a brick building, 116 feet by 54 feet, four stories high, was put up at a cost of forty thousand dollars. It was built in a beautiful position on the picturesque banks of the Fox river, at the limits of Depere, away from the smoke and hum of life in a big city....From an architectural point of view it is one of the finest structures to be found in the vicinity. It is lighted by electricity, heated by steam, and, in a word, nothing has been left undone that might contribute to the convenience of the students...."*

*"St. Norbert's College is a Catholic boarding school for young men. Its purpose is to complete the instruction received in grammar and high school and to lay a broad foundation for higher education...."*

*"Being Catholic in principle as well as in tone, the social atmosphere of this institution is admirably well adapted for the preservation and fostering of the purest morals. Parents want a safe as well as a progressive school. St. Norbert's was founded for this very end, and is succeeding beyond expectation in its high mission."*

(Martin, Deborah. *History of Brown County Wisconsin* (vol I). S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1913).

**B**arely more than a decade old, St. Norbert was already making a name for itself in 1913. Seventy-seven years later, the mission of the College remains unchanged, though sociological, economic and technological changes have impacted vastly the means required to achieve institutional goals.

Main Hall, then "a Catholic boarding school for young men," currently the College's primary administration headquarters, was built at a total cost of \$40,000. When it was rededicated on September 21 after a year-long, top-to-bottom renovation, the price tag for the historic building's rejuvenation was \$2.9 million.



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