



Habits of the Mind: A Convocation Series

Education is a lifelong endeavor, and anyone who wishes to flourish in it, observed John Henry Cardinal Newman, must cultivate certain “habits of the mind.” In 1995, President Byker introduced the Calvin community to eight of these habits, drawing them from Newman’s *The Idea of a University*. Since then, he and the former Dean of the Chapel, Neal Plantinga, turned that single address into a ten-part series for the sake of exploring these habits further, one each year. Eight habits have already been explored and are listed below. Today we take up the ninth and last in the series — embracing piety, common grace and “the antithesis.”

The scripture passage for the series is Romans 12:1-3:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

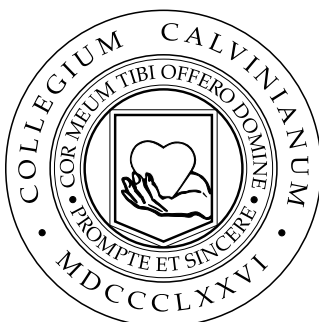
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by grace given me I say to every one of you:

Do not think of ourselves more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourselves with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

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- 1995: *Habits of the Mind – a challenge to develop and practice good habits of the mind.*
Romans 12:1-3 — Gaylen J. Byker
- 1996: *Intellectual Love – a call to love the Lord with all our mind in all that we do*
Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:34-40 — Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
- 1997: *Sober Self-Esteem – a call to live in humility and be an encouragement to others*
Exodus 3:10-12; 4:10-14; Romans 12:1-3 — Gaylen J. Byker
- 1998: *Ordinary Love – a call to act heroically and spend our love for our neighbors*
Matthew 22:39 — Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
- 1999: *Duty: A Light to Guide and a Rod to Check – a challenge to embrace duty as a gift for service to the Kingdom*
Romans 12:1-3; Psalm 119, selected verses — Gaylen J. Byker
- 2000: *On Truthfulness – a call to practice truthfulness – it is our vocation as citizens*
Sirach 4:28 (from the Apocrypha); Ephesians 4:25 — Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
- 2001: *What is a Christian Worldview For? – a call to be wholeheartedly willing and ready to live for Christ and to know that we belong to Him*
Colossians 1:15-22 — Gaylen J. Byker
- 2002: *The Habit of Reflection – a call to take time for reflection – a habit that generates and exhibits wisdom*
Proverbs 8:35 — Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
- 2003: *Intellectual Courage – a charge to be strong and courageous, to not be afraid, and to know that God is with you wherever you go*
John 14; Acts 17:16-28 — Gaylen J. Byker



CALVIN COLLEGE OPENING CONVOCATION

Celebrating the New Year

Calvin Fieldhouse

Tuesday, September 7, 2004
9:50 a.m.

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Greeting

Laura Smit, Dean of the Chapel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours in fullest measure,
through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

The Address

Scripture

Colossians 1:13-23a; Matthew 7:15-20, 24-27 Laura Smit,
Dean of the Chapel

Convocation Address

“Academia Coram Deo”

Dr. Gaylen J. Byker,
President

* Hymn of Response

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song,
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease,
My Comforter, my All in All:
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe,
this gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones he came to save.
‘Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid:
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his, and he is mine:
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death:
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life’s first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no human plan
can ever pluck me from his hand.
‘Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

Prayers

Prayers for Faculty, Staff and Administration

Michelle Lloyd-Page,
Professor of Sociology

Prayers for Students

Andrew Sinclair,
Student Body President

* Responsive Prayer

Joel Carpenter,
Provost

Leader: As we take up our work and worship at Calvin College,
let us commit ourselves to honest labor and joyful obedience.
Grant us the courage to live according to God's word,
the wisdom to find our strength in Christ alone,
and the grace to live lives that reflect our love and gratitude to God.

Administration & Staff: Be with us, Lord,
as we strive to be good stewards of the resources you entrust to our care—
buildings and budgets,
programs and services,
green space and landscape.
At this college, may lives be transformed and may your servants prosper,
in daily routines and in new endeavors.

New Students: Be with us, Lord,
as we find our way at this college,
give us the courage to walk paths of service that honor you.
May we seek the truth and follow it, doing your will,
so that our lives are rooted in our love for you
and we reflect your beauty and wisdom.

Returning Students: Be with us, Lord,
as we resume our tasks here,
as we complete the work we have begun.
May we display faith in you,
holding on to your promises and claiming your blessings,
reflecting on your love for us as we work toward each new goal,
living and working together with energy and integrity,
showing in all that we do our devotion to you and your Kingdom.

Faculty: Be with us, Lord,
as we strive to walk blamelessly, to do what is right.
May we live the truth in our classrooms and everywhere,
moving to greater knowledge, insight, love, and service,
as you give us the wisdom and discernment to do your will.

All: God of grace and God of truth, bless your servants gathered here.
Help us find right ways to serve you;
help us do your will more fully,
strengthen us in your power with the endurance and patience,
to live for you with joy and thanksgiving.
May our teaching and learning and serving
help others to see your grace and truth in us.
In Christ we pray, Amen

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we’d first begun.

Text: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779; st. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790
Tune: Virginia Harmony, 1831

Dismissal

* Charge Romans 12:1–2

Provost: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

* Blessing

Chaplain: May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness,
guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.
Amen!

Recessional from Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

(After the faculty recesses, others may leave also.)

Participants

Faculty Marshalls

Dean Ward Dean, Social Sciences and for Language, Literature and Arts
Uko Zylstra ... Dean, Contextual Disciplines and for Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Musicians

Calvin College Orchestra, conducted by Robert Nordling;
Brooks Kuykendall

Convocation Committee

Donna Anema, Cindy de Jong, Shirley Hoogstra, Darlene Meyering, Jeff Stob,
Pat Sturgeon, Jim VanWingerden

You may visit this website for a transcript of the convocation address
and for photos: www.calvin.edu/convocation/

All are invited to the Cookout on the Campus Green, 11:00am–2:00pm
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DEPARTMENTAL BANNERS

Throughout history, colorful banners have been used to mark important religious and civic events and to celebrate the vision and spirit of the participants in such events. The departmental banners displayed at this occasion arise from an awareness of this tradition and are meant to continue it. Besides symbolically revealing the richness of the various disciplines at Calvin College, the banners graphically represent their distinctiveness. Although their colors are mostly in keeping with traditional associations—scarlet for religion and theology, blue for education, orange for engineering—their forms combine the traditional, the contemporary, and the abstract.



Art



Biology

Art Department

An abstract eye and hand symbolize artistic expression through the artist's sense of sight and touch. Bright colors against black suggest creative boldness.

Biology Department

Dominating the biology banner is a symbol representing the structure of the DNA molecule, deoxyribonucleic acid. The structure of this fundamental material of life, the chemical basis of heredity, was revealed in 1953 and actually photographed in 1969.



Chemistry and
Biochemistry



Classical
Languages

Chemistry and Biochemistry Department

The main symbol used in this banner is the electron distribution for tetrahedral hybrid orbitals, which represents the chemical activity of the elements and their compounds. Two segments of a crystal structure are included in the design, which are also the floor plan shape of the science building. The shaft of pale yellow symbolizes the light of investigation. Yellow is the traditional color associated with science.

Classical Languages Department

While the lyre and the wolf may be taken individually as symbols of Greece and Rome, together they portray the unity of the two civilizations and its cultural achievement, the union of art and nature, and of poetry and myth. Horace has given this continuity and fusion of the two traditions of Greece and Rome its classical literary expression in his odes, of which none better, perhaps, than the "Integer vitae" ode conveys the intention of this banner.



Communication
Arts & Sciences



Computer
Science

Communication Arts and Sciences Department

Sound waves emanating from a central core symbolize communication through speech and drama. The reversal of the outward movement suggests feedback in communication. Silver gray is the color traditionally assigned to speech and drama.

Computer Science Department

The banner of the Computer Science Department features a Turing machine, the foundational model of digital computation. The zeroes and ones on its tape reflect the binary logic by which digital computation is implemented. The changing colors and order of the numbers express the transition as data move from input through processing to output. The white shaft and its golden sheath symbolize the light and energy of education and the sciences. The flowing wind symbolizes the transforming work of the Holy Spirit as it infuses the discipline of computing.



Economics
& Business



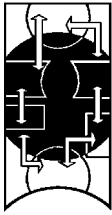
Education

Economics and Business Department

Shapes and lines express the charting and planning of economic budgets. Subtly appearing among other symbols is a cross expressing the Christ-centered teaching of economics at Calvin College. Copper is the color associated with economics.

Education Department

The relationship of teacher and student in the educational process is represented by the forceful interaction of shapes in this design. The white shaft symbolizes the light of learning in the Holy Spirit. Blue is traditionally linked with education.



Engineering



English



French



Geology,
Geography, &
Environmental
Studies



Germanic
& Asian
Languages
& Literature



Health, Physical
Education, Rec-
reation, Dance
& Sport



History



Library



Mathematics &
Statistics

Engineering Department

The Engineering banner illustrates the key activity of engineers, namely, their involvement with the design process, an iterative, decision-making sequence. Steps in the sequence, represented by circles and rectangles, are connected by arrows to indicate the movement from the initial problem statement to final solution. Two-way arrows suggest the possibility of sequence reversal. Orange traditionally designates engineering.

English Department

The two main symbols, the lion and the eagle, represent England and the United States of America. The lozenge pattern in the background expresses the pageantry of England during the development of the English language.

French Department

The banner of the Department of French features the Coq Gaulois, long a national emblem of France, and Arch of Triumph, a symbol of French patriotism. The cock, traditionally the Christian symbol for watchfulness, has been adopted as its symbol by a nation which since its inception has been one of the important cradles of Christian thought and practice. The colors of the national flag are represented by the Coq Gaulois.

Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies Department

Earthkeeping, the human community's care for God's earth, is symbolized in the banner for the Department of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies by representations of atmosphere, mountains, cities, water, and the various levels of the earth's interior. The white shaft symbolizes the light and energy of learning stimulated by the Holy Spirit.

Germanic and Asian Languages and Literature Department

The study of the Dutch and German languages is represented by symbols taken from emblems of the countries associated with these languages. The traditional black eagle represents Germany, and the orange lion is from the seal of the Netherlands. The white shaft symbolizes the light of learning.

Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance and Sport Department

Engaged in exercise, sports, and dance, a person in motion is suggested by the movement of rhythmical shapes and lines. Sage green is the color associated with physical fitness.

History Department

Jagged, horizontal bands, representing both the rise and fall of civilizations and the four kingdoms as described in the Book of Daniel, move across vertical time lines, which also symbolize the dramatic influence of Christ on history.

Library

The library as a gatherer, receptacle, and distributor of information, ideas and learning, is represented by the abstract book shape, while the white flowing shaft itself symbolizes the light and energy of learning in the Holy Spirit of God. The flame is the traditional symbol of learning and discovery through research.

Mathematics and Statistics Department

Mathematicians have always saved time and effort by substituting symbols for words. The basic arithmetical steps of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing are depicted on this banner by some of the earliest ways of writing them down.

The Renaissance calculator Tartaglia used the first letter of the Italian word for plus to signify adding. Diophantus favored this minus sign in Greek times. Leibniz employed this multiplication symbol in 17th century Germany. J. E. Gallimard used this reverse D for division in 18th century France.



Music



Nursing



Philosophy



Physics and Astronomy



Political Science



Psychology



Religion



Sociology & Social Work



Spanish

Music Department

The design of the Music banner emphasizes the rhythms of musical sounds. Shapes and lines suggest strings, valves, keys, horn bell, drum, and other musical forms. Radiating circles suggest sound waves. The colors express the various moods of music.

Nursing Department

The traditional emblem of nursing, Florence Nightingale's lamp, is featured in the banner for the Department of Nursing. The flame of the lamp symbolizes the light of Christian compassion and education. The gold of the lamp is the traditional color for science. The background apricot color is the academic regalia color for nursing, while the white shaft represents peace through the Holy Spirit.

Philosophy Department

Light refracted through a transparent prism symbolizes the many-faceted investigations both of fact and of principles of reality and of human nature and conduct.

Physics and Astronomy Department

The construction of elements is symbolized in the Physics banner by the simplest atom, hydrogen, with its single proton and electron. Also included in the design are a tracing of the paths of particles from an atom and a segment of a crystal structure which is also the floor plan shape of the science building. The yellow shaft symbolizes the light of investigation.

Political Science Department

The banner of the Department of Political Science features a representation of the fasces, a symbol of the authority of the state, and arrows that express the direction and flow of the analytical and holistic nature of the process of law. The fasces, a bundle of rods bound about by an ax with projecting blade, was carried before ancient Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority. The white shaft of seven rods also symbolizes peace and enlightenment through the Holy Spirit.

Psychology Department

The Greek letter *psi*, the first letter of the Greek word *psyche* (the mind), traditionally signifies the discipline of psychology. The color red symbolizes emotion; blue, rationality; and white, peace through the Holy Spirit.

Religion Department

Three symbols of the Trinity—circle, cross, and dove—express the fullness of God as He reveals Himself as Creator, Savior, and Counselor. These symbols are interlocked to depict the oneness of God. The shaft of white is the light of learning in Christian education guided by the Holy Spirit. Scarlet is traditionally associated with theology.

Sociology and Social Work Department

The central concept of sociology, represented by the inner circle, is a person interacting with other people to form groups. Total human society, represented by the broken circle, is composed of many small units forming a larger interrelated structure. All groups, from the family to society itself, exist within a framework of social norms. This normative or cultural framework, represented by the unbroken outer circle, promotes conformity, as suggested by the arrows directed from it toward the inner circles of society and the smaller group.

Spanish Department

The banner of the Spanish Department features the traditional symbols of the historical kingdoms of Castilla (castle), León (lion) and Aragón (red and yellow bars). These Christian kingdoms emerged during the eight-hundred-year long reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from domination by Muslim rulers. The separate kingdoms were joined through the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, and eventually coalesced into the modern nation of Spain.