



ST STITHIANS  
COLLEGE

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

# *Celeste Gilardi*

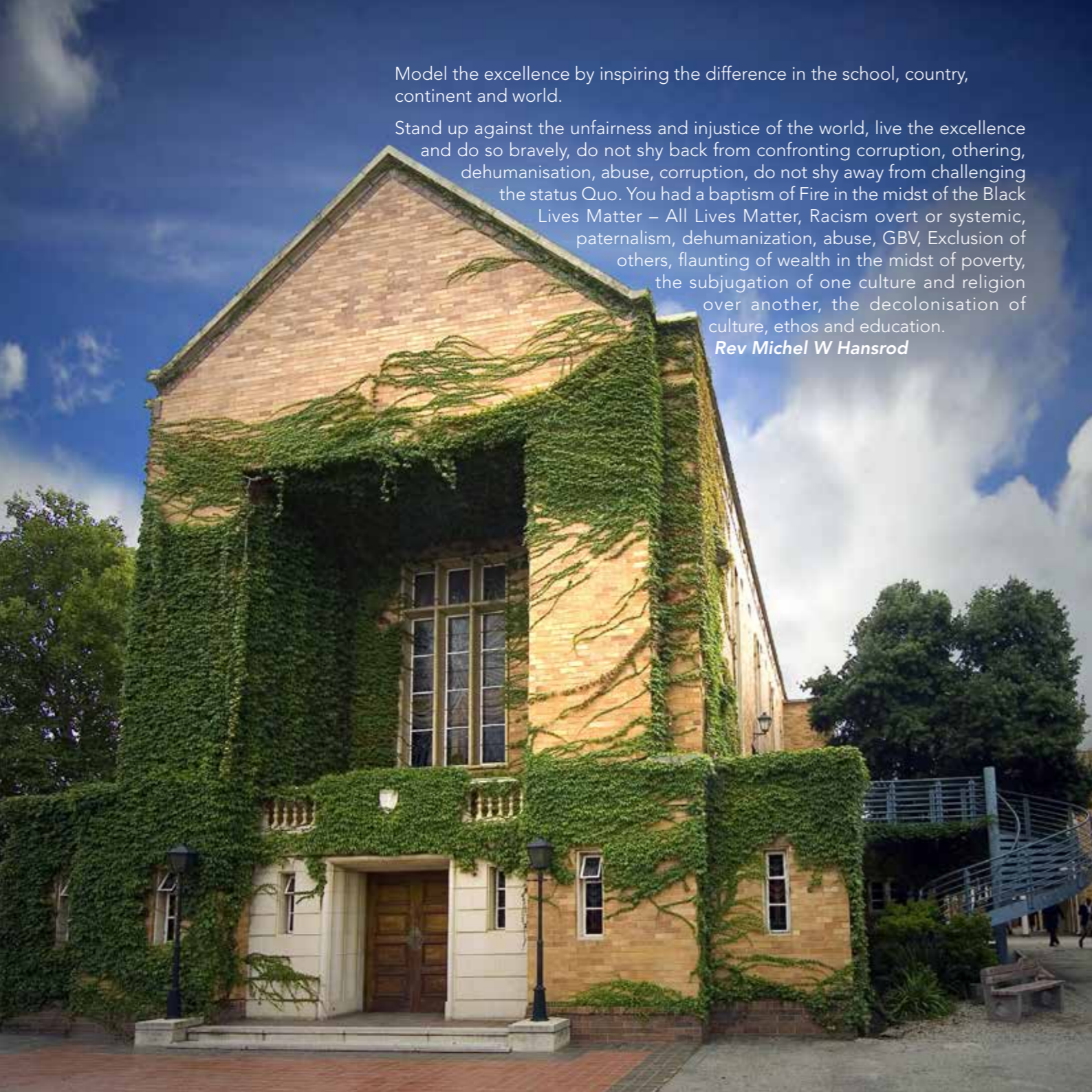
THE INDUCTION OF THE RECTOR

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa  
20 November 2020

Model the excellence by inspiring the difference in the school, country, continent and world.

Stand up against the unfairness and injustice of the world, live the excellence and do so bravely, do not shy back from confronting corruption, othering, dehumanisation, abuse, corruption, do not shy away from challenging the status Quo. You had a baptism of Fire in the midst of the Black Lives Matter – All Lives Matter, Racism overt or systemic, paternalism, dehumanization, abuse, GBV, Exclusion of others, flaunting of wealth in the midst of poverty, the subjugation of one culture and religion over another, the decolonisation of culture, ethos and education.

*Rev Michel W Hansrod*



Gary Morolo, the Chair of the St Stithians College Endowment Fund Trust and Carel Nolte, the Chair of St Stithians College Council invite you to our campus of Welcome and Wonder to celebrate the induction of **Celeste Gilardi** as Rector of St Stithians College.

**20 November 2020**

**St Stithians College Chapel at 09h00**

Light refreshments will be served after the service

**RSVP**

<https://forms.gle/YCoA1aRoeYPurPUeA>

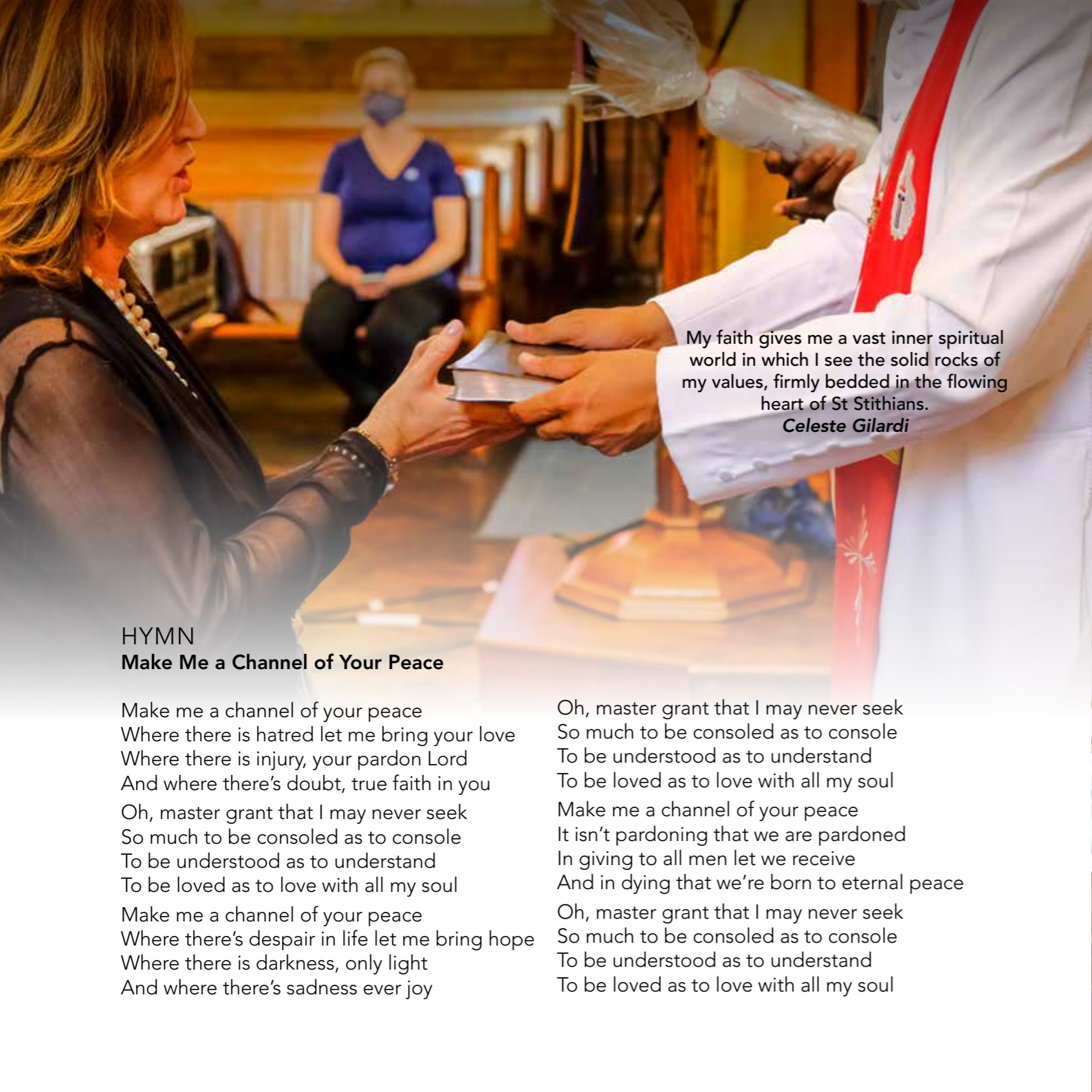
Please RSVP with Plus One on link by Friday 13 November 2020

Should you be unable to join us, you will be able to watch the event at the following link:  
<https://www.stithian.com/content/page/rector-celeste-gilardi-service-of-induction>

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE  
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



ST STITHIANS  
COLLEGE



My faith gives me a vast inner spiritual world in which I see the solid rocks of my values, firmly bedded in the flowing heart of St Stithians.  
*Celeste Gilardi*

**HYMN**  
**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you  
Oh, master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul  
Make me a channel of your peace  
It isn't pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men let we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal peace  
Oh, master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

**Rev. Daniel Nkomo**

The Superintendent Chaplain

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God.

**All:**

**We are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.**

**WELCOME**

**Carel Nolte**

Chair of Council

**PRAYERS OF ADORATION, PRAISE & THANKSGIVING**

**Rev Faith Whitby**

Bishop of the Central Synod

Followed by

The Lord's Prayer (said)

**MUSICAL ITEM**

**THE JUNIOR PREPARATORY SCHOOL**





May God grant you and all us here, Charm, Conviction, Compassion and Courage. Indeed Celeste, it's not the fact that you are first, but what you will do with it that matters.  
*Rev Michel W Hansrod*





## BIBLE READINGS

**Megan Rogers**

Deputy Chair of Council

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

John 15: 12-17

## THE CHARGE

**Rev Michel W Hansrod**

General Secretary of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

## MUSICAL ITEM – THE BOYS’ PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Stand firm and unwavering, in fact sometimes you will only have your conviction and conscious sense of justice that will guide you through. Do not be tossed on the waves of public opinion, do not be tossed on the commentary on social media and the car parks of the schools. Do not be moved from your conviction by what others are saying. Stand firm in what you believe in order to guide the ship. Be who you are and lead from that conviction.

**Rev Michel W Hansrod**



In the face of danger, destruction and death, Esther rose selflessly and courageously to speak truth to power, in the midst of evil and power mongering she faced it squarely and bravely and exposed it for it was. In the face of toxicity and corruption she challenged it with fortitude and single mindedness, in the presence of dehumanisation and callousness she approached it with integrity and compassion. *Rev Michel W Hansrod*



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Rev Faith Whitby,*  
Bishop of the Central Synod

## INDUCTION OF THE RECTOR

### **Chair of Council:**

Presiding Bishop Purity, Council members, Staff, Students and members of the St Stithians family, I commend to you Mrs Celeste Gilardi, who has been appointed to serve as Rector of St Stithians College.

## THE PROMISES OF THE RECTOR

**General Secretary:** Celeste, through God's grace you have come to this College.

Do you promise to fulfil the role of Rector to the best of your ability?

**Rector:** With God's help, I will.

**Bishop of Synod:** Will you be faithful in prayer and devotion to God our Saviour?  
Will you help the College community to persevere and grow in a life of faith and service?  
Will you strive to lead as Christ led, with courage, devotion and humility?

**Rector:** With God's help, I will.

**General Secretary:** Celeste, will you strive to advance what is good and right, build positive relationships, and be a custodian of the values of the College?

**Rector:** With God's help, I will.

**All:** *Celeste, will you lead us in the way of a servant leader; will you guide and inspire us to be the good citizens God intends us to be?*

**Rector:** I will do so, God being my helper.



**General Secretary:** Being a Rector is a great responsibility. Let us pray that God will give Celeste the guidance of His Holy Spirit at all times.

**General Secretary:** Blessed Lord, we believe You have called Celeste to serve this College. Fill her with the gifts and the fruit of Your Holy Spirit.

We pray that the staff, students, Council members and the Saints community will work with Celeste so that this College will continue to make a world of difference in South Africa and beyond. Amen.

**General Secretary:** Staff, students and the community of St Stithians, I ask you now to receive Celeste who has been appointed to serve you. Will you work with her in honouring God; honouring others & honouring yourselves?

**All: Yes we will.**

*The Rector (with her family) shall kneel, and all the congregation shall stand.*

*The General Secretary, Bishop of the Central Synod and those assisting shall gather around and bless the Rector saying:*

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, I induct you as the Rector of St Stithians College.*

**Bishop of the Central Synod:** Lord, bless Celeste. Pour Your Holy Spirit upon her that she may fulfil her duties with wisdom, courage and faithfulness to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**ALL: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. Amen**

The Bishop of the Synod, Secretary General and those assisting, extend the right hand of welcome to the Rector

## THE SIGNS OF OFFICE

The Secretary General hands Celeste the Bible.

The Superintendent Chaplain hands Celeste the candle.

## MUSICAL ITEM – THE GIRLS’ PREPARATORY SCHOOL





Read your bible, pray every day. Find your charm in who God is in your life and you will be a queen.

*Rev Michel W Hansrod*



Following a rigorous process – many superb candidates – culminated in a massive panel. Prof Makgheti UCT vice chancellor, many council members, staff – Celeste was the clear choice. And how grateful am I. Nobody else would have handled this year as well as Celeste. Your grit, determination, passion, smarts, resilience, high work ethic, rock steady values, humour and usually fabulous hair are just a few of the qualities Saints has benefited from.

*Carel Nolte*



There is a common belief in striving for the better, in seeking excellence. I was educated to believe in a unity of mind and heart that called for the whole person to be educated. To allow free hearts and free minds, underpinned by reflection and contemplation, leads us to better decision making and a world where justice is not only possible, but to be fought for, a right for One and All. In a world seemingly fragile and broken, I know that the banks of the river hold us because we hold fast to our values.

*Celeste Gilardi*



THE RECTOR RESPONDS

INVITATION TO REFRESHMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

Secretary General

HYMN AND PROCESSION

The College Hymn

<sup>1</sup> Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, be all else but naught to me, save that thou art; be thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

<sup>2</sup> Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord; be thou my great Father, and I thy true son; be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

<sup>3</sup> Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might; be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower: O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

<sup>4</sup> Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; be thou mine inheritance now and always; be thou and thou only the first in my heart; O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

<sup>5</sup> High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun, O grant me its joys after victory is won; great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.



It is said it's not about what you say to people but how you make them feel.  
*Rev Michel W Hansrod*



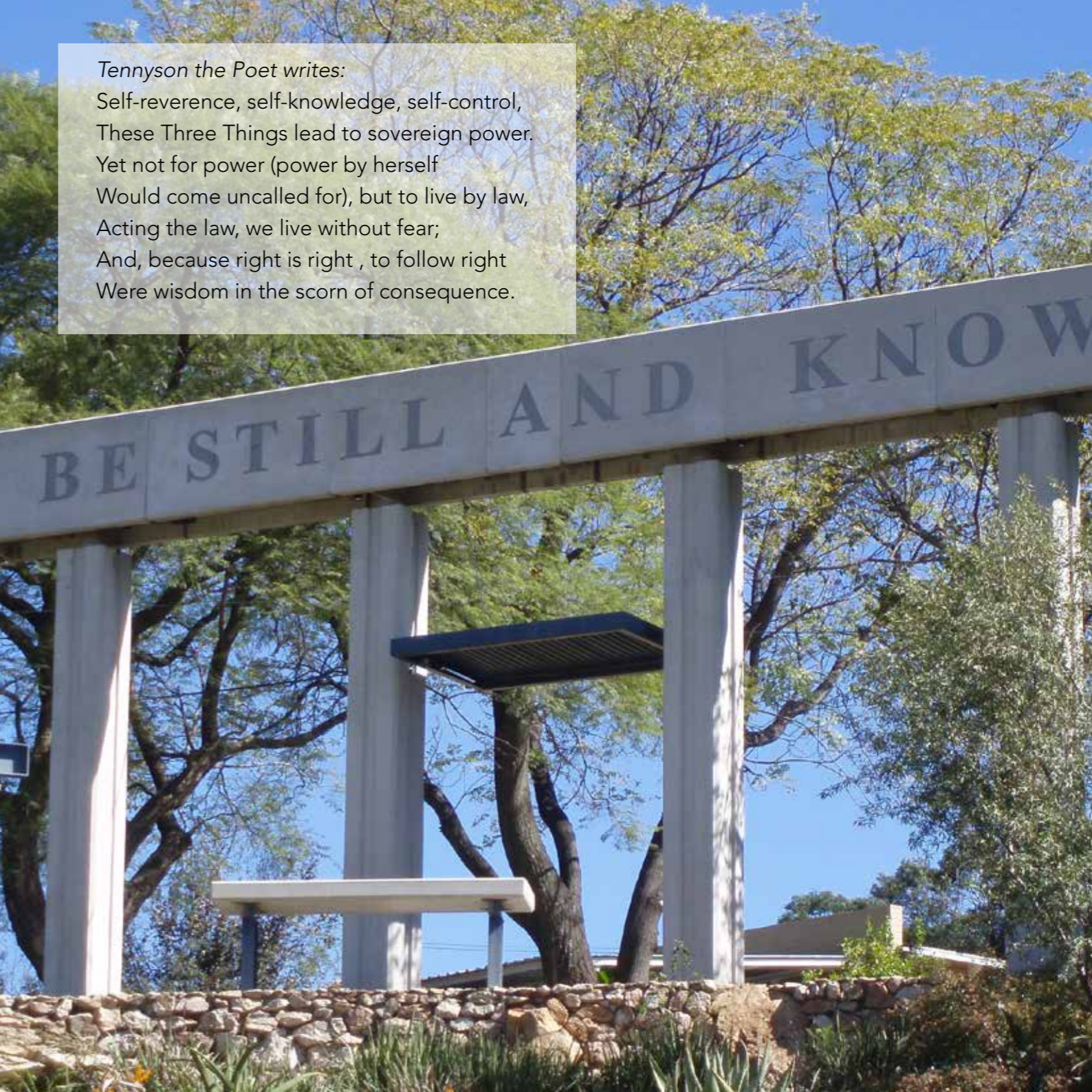


This is the platform from which I can engage with some of the best minds, not only in South Africa but in the world, through our incredible staff, parents, the community and especially the fierce minds of our students. We are at an inflection point and I commit to working with and for, all of our stakeholders, to continue to make this College a place of welcome and wonder, to create what David Whyte and John O' Donohue call the 'House of Belonging'.

**Celeste Gilardi**



*Tennyson the Poet writes:*  
Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,  
These Three Things lead to sovereign power.  
Yet not for power (power by herself  
Would come uncalled for), but to live by law,  
Acting the law, we live without fear;  
And, because right is right , to follow right  
Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence.



As Rabindranath Tagore says so eloquently  
'I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was duty.  
I worked – and behold, duty was joy.'  
St Stithians, this is my duty, this is my work, this is my joy.

*Celeste Gilardi*

