Christopher Codrington: religion and the founding of Codrington College



Christopher Codrington and religion

After the death of his father, Codrington was appointed to succeed him as Governor-General of the Leeward Islands in 1699. He wrote at that time in a letter to William Popple:

'I have always thought it very barbarous that so little care should be taken of the bodies, and so much [less] of the souls of our poor slaves. Their condition has cost me many a mortifying reflection, and yet I know not how I shall be able to mend it in any one respect but feeding my slaves well. I shall certainly be opposed by all the Planters in general if I should go about to secure their limbs and lives by a law, though I will certainly recommend something of the kind, but much more if I should promote the baptizing of all our slaves.'

A theological college

Codrington's other institutional bequest was to found a college in Barbados which was to be administered by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

In his will he endowed it with two plantations to be worked by 'three hundred negros at Least Kept always thereon'. There were also to be a 'number of Professors and Scholars Maintained there, all of them to be under the vows of Poverty Chastity and obedience, who shall be oblidged to Studdy and Practice Physick and Chyrurgery as well as divinity'.

Codrington also specified that this was in order to 'indear themselves to the People and have the better oppertunitys of doeing good To mens Souls whilst they are Takeing Care of their Bodys.'

Codrington College today

Codrington College still functions as an Anglican theological college affiliated to the University of the West Indies.

Its principal, the Rev. Dr. Michael Clarke kindly provided the slides that follow.



Our Principal

Codrington College will represent the old and with that presentation of all that is valuable, we will carve the new and offer the two together for a world that is rootless.

Marcus Garvey urging the African Diaspora to be aware of all that has contributed to who they are states, "a people without a knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots".

The Rev. Dr. Michael Clarke





Opened in 1745 as a Grammar School, the College marks its 276th year of service.

Become a part of an outstanding tradition and Godly heritage.









The Perfect Environment

With a majestic view of the Caribbean sea and surrounded with a beautiful, peaceful and tranquil garden-like serenity. The College provides an ideal environment in which to study.







Great Programme Options

We continue to offer undergraduate and graduate programmes to the sacred priesthood and continually seek ways to serve the church and wider community through ongoing creative efforts in designing courses relevant to our time.

Unlimited Horizons



Other graduates pursue vocations both within and outside church settings as well as pursuing further graduate education or careers in academia.





Join the Tradition

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