

“A thread that has linked us for 150 years: a future to invent”

In 1875, two visionary industrialists and philanthropists, Philibert Vrau and his friend and brother-in-law Camille Féron-Vrau, together laid the foundations for a bold project: to create a place of academic excellence rooted in the values of social Catholicism.

Inspired by their faith in education, solidarity, and human progress, the two builders imagined an institution where knowledge, commitment, and humanity would come together to transform society.

The thread they spun, a symbol of sustainability and excellence, has continued to unfold through the generations, linking our past to an ambitious future.

Celebrating 150 years of history means honouring the legacy of those who have shaped our university, and affirming our mission for tomorrow.

Together, we have built a place of knowledge and solidarity where everyone – every student, teacher, researcher, carer, partner – helps weave together a more fair and sustainable society.

In 2025, we will be writing a new page in this great adventure.

Through festivities and projects led by our university community, our anniversary will be a time for sharing and reflection, culminating in October 2025 with the ECOPOSS festival – an ‘Extraordinary Journey’ towards the horizons of tomorrow's society.

Let us continue, together, to weave this thread of history, with the same boldness and passion that have driven us for 150 years.

Patrick Scaufaire, President Rector



**Université
Catholique
de Lille** 1875