

FOCUS SECTION

INTRODUCTION

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The administration, faculty, and graduate students at Seton Hall University are pleased to present this Focus section on special issues in Catholic education. Offering an eclectic array of insights into educational concerns, these essays examine questions that will be of interest to Catholic educators at every level. Topics include vouchers and school choice, law and policy issues, Catholic identity, the integration of theology and philosophy, and values education in a technological age.

We begin with a brief overview of the history of law and policy questions in the United States. An article examining the voucher controversy, a case study about one district where a voucher program has met with some success, follows it. In this case study, better education began to happen in the public system, and the authors wonder if a voucher system that includes the Catholic school system can be resisted much longer.

Jesuit education is discussed in another article that provides a historical perspective on Jesuit educational philosophy and policies. The author traces the journey of Catholics who were very much outside of the educational mainstream in the U.S.

Technology comes under scrutiny in an article which, while applauding the advancements we have made in educational environments, calls for Catholic schools to continue to serve the spiritual needs of students.

Pope John Paul II's *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* invited Catholic universities to foster dialogue between faith and culture. To accomplish this task, we need a philosophy capable of integrating contemporary scientific and scholarly methods with questions springing from the religious depths of the human person. Our last essay suggests that Bernard Lonergan's work provides such an integrating philosophy and highlights his thoughts on the nature of a liberal arts education.

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