

EDITORS' COMMENTS

The focus of this issue of *Catholic Education* is the state of American Catholic higher education, which has undergone many changes since the Land O' Lakes Conference in 1967. Writers such as Philip Gleason, David O'Brien, Alice Gallin, Theodore Hesburgh, and James Burtchaell, to name but a few, have addressed salient issues involving those institutions in recent years.

The issuance of the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* by Pope John Paul II in 1990 and the subsequent norms for its implementation in the United States, developed under the leadership of the American hierarchy in consultation with Catholic university presidents, are matters of considerable moment to the Church in general and to its educational institutions in particular. Issues related to religious identity and mission comprise the crux of the situation.

Anthony Dosen first examines the Constitution itself, and the two sets of norms for its implementation (1993 and 1999) prepared by the American bishops, each of which is appended to Dosen's piece. Next, William Frank maintains that Catholic identity is determined by its philosophical foundations. Frank's essay is followed by M. J. Iozzio's call for the development of a new relationship between theology and philosophy. Richard Breslin then addresses issues presented by hiring practices, which, he contends, have a profound effect on an institution's identity. Finally, Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, analyzes the recently approved ordinances for *Ex Corde's* implementation in this country. He concludes with a disavowal of the Land O' Lakes statement put forth by the presidents of the major American Catholic universities as the "path to follow," and offers his ideas on the issues of religious identity and mission of the Catholic universities.

There are two other articles in this issue. The first is an address by Archbishop Giuseppe Pittau, S.J., Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican. Archbishop Pittau's talk, "Education on the Threshold of the Third Millennium: Challenge, Mission, and Adventure," was delivered to a gathering of Catholic school administrators at Fordham University on May 18, 1999. The interplay that exists between religion and culture in the United States is explored by James Heft in our final essay.

The Research section features a comprehensive summary by Joseph O'Keefe of the deliberations of selected Catholic education researchers at the Research Summit which was held at the University of San Francisco from March 17-19 of this year. The Summit was organized by Sister Mary Peter Traviss, Director of the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership, and held under the sponsorship of that organization.

An interview with Thomas Lickona, an educator whose career has featured helping teachers do a more effective job in shaping character, makes up the Book Review section for this issue.

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