

EDITORS' COMMENTS

At a recent meeting of the governing board of the journal, members invested considerable time and energy in a spirited discussion of their respective research agenda in an effort to identify those topics and challenges that the journal might address in future issues. The exchange was lively and engaging, and the research needs of Catholic education are myriad.

On page 420 entitled, CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS, we provide an overview of this discussion, detailing the general themes and specific topics facing Catholic education. We welcome the participation of our readers, the academic community, K-12 Catholic educators, and pastoral leaders in responding to these needs and hope to hear from you if our list needs expanded in any way.

Meanwhile, this issue offers a focus section comparing and contrasting public and private schools across several themes. Other articles address some of the topics mentioned in our CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS, including: Catholic identity, student achievement and its relationship to time-of-day effects, research at Catholic universities, and several book reviews.

We are also preparing several special focus sections with national and international Catholic educational leaders, including the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' (USCCB) Department of Education on public policy, Gerald Cattaro of Fordham University and Renato Cardinal Martino on peace and justice issues in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the publication of Pope John XXIII's celebrated encyclical, *Pacem In Terris*, and Fr. Tony Dosen and colleagues from DePaul University examining a variety of significant educational issues.

Responding to the ongoing research needs of Catholic education assures our future growth and progress. It is also good stewardship of the ministry we share. Thank you for being a part of the success story and for blessing others through your service.

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