

EDITORS' COMMENTS

Ex Corde Ecclesiae has held center stage in the area of Church-Catholic higher education relationships for the past several years. Recognizing this fact, the editors present two pieces on that topic in this issue. The first, written by Bishop John J. Leibrecht of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese, highlights the issues and actions associated with the development of the U.S. application of the papal document. Leibrecht chaired the American bishops' Implementation Committee. The second manuscript presents the procedures connected with the issuance of the *mandatum*, which is required for Catholics who teach the theological disciplines in U.S. Catholic colleges and universities.

Our Focus Section examines a variety of topics related to teachers and teaching. Thomas Del Prete opens the Focus Section with a treatise on Thomas Merton's spirituality of education. Carol Cimino, SSJ, then addresses the vocation of the teacher in Catholic schools. The final two articles deal with the groundbreaking alternative preparation program, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame. The first essay reports that ACE teacher candidates surpass traditional teacher education students in their sense of responsibility for helping disadvantaged students academically and for fostering the moral growth of all students. The second article informs us of significant and meaningful components of this alternative program with a view to challenging traditional teacher education programs. Each of the above is critical, in this age of crisis in teacher education, teacher shortage, retention, spirituality, and sense of mission.

A presentation of research on school discipline and two book reviews conclude this issue of the *Journal*.

The editorial staff wishes to express its gratitude to Marian Glancy, editorial assistant, for her excellent work for the past three years. We wish Marian the best in all her future endeavors.

Ronald J. Nuzzi, Thomas C. Hunt, *Co-Editors*

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