

From the Editor

In the first of four biannual gatherings of the Boston College Roundtable, participants were asked to consider a theme at the heart of many discussions on campuses across the United States, namely “charism and hospitality.” Presenters were asked to explore the theme through the lens of their own discipline and experience in the academy. The three papers presented during the weekend Roundtable, along with the responses and dialogue, invite reflection on the ways that different campus communities strike a balance between fidelity to their Catholic tradition, on the one hand, and openness to the many who represent increasingly diverse other faith traditions, on the other.

This inaugural issue of *Integritas* captures the first of three discussions around the theme. It is anchored by theologian Aurelie Hagstrom’s exploration of the “hospitality of God” in the gospels, in the wider context of ancient Greek and Old Testament sources. She shows how Jesus’ hospitality provides an originating impulse for the Church’s mission. Recalling *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Pope John Paul II’s apostolic constitution on Catholic universities which calls them to participate in the mission of the Church, she suggests that to consider the Catholic university as the place where we practice intellectual hospitality offers us a fruitful way of considering our contemporary challenges.

In his response, Marc Muskavitch, a biologist, recognizes in Hagstrom’s exhortation an approach that provides fertile ground for the virtues of scientific inquiry, among other university endeavors. He writes that “academic scholars are actually called to be open and to be hospitable to wrestling with uncertainty and to exploring error in seeking encounters with truth, both with those who are like-minded and those who are other-minded.” Scientists are rooted in a method that demands objectivity; still, researchers are human and are thus themselves subject to the personal dynamics of trial and error, confidence and failure, openness to correction and generosity toward those who disagree about unsolved questions. Hospitality, he agrees, is a virtue for the scientist.

The final section of this issue captures the discussion among all members of the Roundtable. Participants and observers had the opportunity to weigh in on the meaning of hospitality for the future of Catholic colleges and universities, and the conversation (kept anonymous for the sake of free exchange of ideas) named several neuralgic points which open the way for further dialogue and exploration. It is our hope that this

issue will provide a starting point for discussion on other campuses as well.

Tim Muldoon

muldoont@bc.edu