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Editors' Farewell

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EDITORS' FAREWELL

Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice (hereafter *Journal*) was introduced into the educational world by co-editors William F. Losito and Joseph F. Rogus in September 1997. Much has happened involving it since that time and much transpired before its arrival on the Catholic educational scene.

FOUNDING OF THE JOURNAL

The consensus in Catholic educational circles is that the termination of both the *Catholic Educational Review*, published under the auspices of The Catholic University of America and the *Notre Dame Journal of Education*, a University of Notre Dame publication, had resulted in a void—the absence of a refereed journal in the United States that addressed itself to Catholic education at all levels. Responding to the need to fill this void, three individuals spent a weekend meeting in St. Louis in the mid-1990s. It was at this meeting that the initial plans for the *Journal* were made. To those three persons, Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., of Saint Louis University (now the President of Loyola University in Chicago), James L. Heft, S.M., then Provost of the University of Dayton, and Mary Peter Traviss, O.P., at the time Director of the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership (ICEL) at the University of San Francisco, goes a major share of the credit for the existence of the *Journal*. They hammered out the basic policies that would lead to the *Journal's* creation and its governance in the early years.

YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

During the 1996-97 school year an editor, William F. Losito, was appointed, as was an assistant editor, Julie K. Biddle. Both from the University of Dayton, together they did the “spadework” that got the *Journal* off the ground. An advisory board was appointed and a board of reviewers was selected. Peter Li Education Group of Dayton was chosen to produce the *Journal*. During the year Joseph F. Rogus, like Losito a member of the faculty of the School of Education at Dayton, was named co-editor. Rogus was an especially spirited soul, and had a great love for the Church and her schools, which he gladly placed at the service of the *Journal*. Joseph M. O’Keefe, S.J., became editor of the review of research section, and Mary Peter Traviss consented to serve as book review editor.

Heft, along with Garanzini and Traviss, obtained a grant for \$50,000 from the Lilly Foundation as start-up funds to build the needed infrastructure

for managing and hosting a quarterly publication. Subscriptions were solicited, as were manuscripts, and the *Journal* came into being.

Fordham University joined the Universities of Dayton, Saint Louis, and San Francisco as the founding institutions of the *Journal*. James Heft represented Dayton, while Gerald Cattaro did the same for Fordham, Michael Garanzini for Saint Louis, and Mary Peter Traviss for San Francisco. Ms. Colleen Wildenhaus was appointed managing editor, a post she held with distinction until 2003. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of Colleen to the survival and success of the *Journal*. She was responsible for overseeing the *Journal's* finances, kept all of the *Journal's* records, including subscriptions and submission of manuscripts, proofread the manuscripts prior to publication, and oversaw the actual production of each issue. Colleen was indispensable in the day-to-day tasks of managing all journal-related work. Her attention to detail and her natural desire for excellence gave the *Journal* the stability it needed to grow and then excel. To this day, we rely on Colleen as a set of additional eyes to review text before final production, and she always helps us to make the final product just a little bit better. All of us connected with the *Journal* are indebted to her.

Mary Peter Traviss has volunteered to the editorial staff that much is owed to the University of Dayton for shouldering the major costs of the *Journal* in its early years. The other three founding institutions contributed \$2,500 annually: Dayton covered all other expenses that were not assumed by the Lilly grant, expenses that amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. Most important, Dayton considered the operation of the *Journal* to be a *bona fide* part of the regular work of its faculty and staff, and included *Journal* responsibilities as a part of contracts and work agreements.

Early on Losito resigned as co-editor and was replaced by Father Ronald Nuzzi, who has remained in that post to this day. In September of 1998, Dr. Rogus passed into eternity and Dr. Thomas Hunt was appointed to serve in his stead. He, like Nuzzi, has continued to serve as co-editor.

In those first years of its existence the *Journal* confronted a number of challenges. At the outset, there was a paucity of manuscripts and efforts to recruit high quality articles were put into place. Perhaps even more serious, after the expiration of the Lilly grant, the *Journal* faced serious financial difficulties. The addition of other Catholic colleges and universities as members of the governing board, each with a representative on that board, began in 1999 with the addition of Seton Hall. That number has grown to 20 today through the combined efforts of member institutions, the editorial staff, and the support of many Jesuit deans. Their contribution of \$2,500 annually, combined with an aggressive recruiting policy for new subscriptions, and the growing reputation of the *Journal* as a first-rate scholarly organ, served to

enable the *Journal* ultimately to meet that serious challenge to its existence. But not before one final act occurred. In 2002, with no successor as host in sight, Thomas J. Lasley II, Dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions at the University of Dayton consented to host the *Journal* for an extra year. Without his generous action, which constitutes yet another chapter of support by the University of Dayton, one hesitates to think of the fate that would likely have befallen the *Journal*. It most likely would have ceased publication before it left for Notre Dame.

YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

The University of Notre Dame was pleased and enthusiastic about the possibility of becoming the editorial home for the *Journal*. Although Notre Dame had once closed its Department of Education and along with it, a journal supporting Catholic schooling, the 1990s witnessed Notre Dame's re-engagement with K-12 Catholic schools in new and creative ways. The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) was experiencing steady growth in its teacher service program and had begun a partnering effort that resulted in over a dozen universities creating teacher service programs similar to and modeled after ACE. Notre Dame was also preparing to launch an innovative school leadership program to prepare and license administrators for Catholic schools. Thus, by 2002 the time was right to consider housing the only refereed journal in the world dedicated exclusively to Catholic education.

Notre Dame made its formal proposal to the governing board of the *Journal* on October 7, 2002, meeting the operational requirements for housing the editorial office and staff, and committed to a total of \$400,000 over the 5-year period to help keep the *Journal* growing. Other institutional members renewed their financial commitments as well, pledging \$2,500 per year plus a faculty member to serve on the board. The governing board approved Notre Dame's proposal and operations were fully transferred from Dayton to Notre Dame by July 1, 2003.

Notre Dame turned out to be the perfect place for the *Journal* to grow during this second editorial rotation. Although Notre Dame does not currently have a school or department of education, all of its education-related activities are housed in the Institute for Educational Initiatives. The Institute is an umbrella organization, inter-departmental and cross-disciplinary, bringing together scholars and practitioners from a variety of university units and departments. Led by the Reverend Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., the Institute includes the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), the Center for Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO), the Center for Children and Families, and the Education, Schooling, and Society Minor, a series of undergraduate classes focused on educational equity and policy issues. Scully has been

instrumental in focusing the efforts of the Institute, having been the original founder of ACE and more recently the chair of the Notre Dame Task Force that produced the study, “*Making God Known, Loved, and Served*,” the university’s official response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB), *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*. Indeed, without Scully’s vision and efforts, and his quick and friendly “yes” to the *Journal*, the *Journal* might have met its end in Dayton.

For the last 5 years, our considerable success, growth, timely production, efficient meetings, new displays, national presence, advertising, marketing, renewals, invoices, author correspondence, and budgeting have been in the capable hands of Julie Wernick Dallavis, our managing editor. Julie is a product of Catholic education herself, and her work ethic, commitment, and grace all show signs of how deeply engaged Julie has been with this important ministry. She has traveled the country to attend conventions, managed sometimes difficult and quirky authors, worked her way through emerging technology problems, built our website, supervised our expansion into electronic markets, and attended to every other detail required in daily operations. Her good cheer and grace were highly prized and much needed, mostly to offset the temperament of the editors. Several years ago she found her life’s partner and married. Recently, she and her husband Christian welcomed their first child, Max. Remarkably and to her undying credit, we have never missed a deadline or had a single late issue. Not sickness, not moving, not a wedding, or even maternity leave ever delayed the *Journal* a single day. Julie has always been well-organized, ahead of schedule, responsible and forward-looking, and Catholic education is the better for it. Wisely, Notre Dame is keeping her in its employ as it launches the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Press, a new effort to sustain and strengthen Catholic schools.

TRANSITION TO BOSTON COLLEGE

The editorial staff wishes our colleagues at Boston College well as they undertake the important work of staffing this journal. We are grateful for the opportunity we have had to serve a national readership and constituency, and for the wonderful vantage point that editing allowed us to enjoy—to help frame the debate, identify significant questions, and to further advance the overall educational mission of the Church. The work has been meaningful and fulfilling, and we are edified by the friendship, support, and trust of our fine colleagues on the governing and advisory boards.

And most especially to you, our loyal readers, we owe a debt of gratitude and heartfelt thanks. Our commitment to Catholic education is unwavering and ever-growing, and we hope that these pages have been a source of guid-

ance and inspiration for you. When the story of the re-birth of Catholic schooling is written, it is your names that will be read about in the pages of this journal.

Ronald J. Nuzzi, Thomas C. Hunt, Editors