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Editors' Comments

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

We are pleased to present in this issue a focus section on governance and policy issues for Catholic educators. Msgr. Thomas J. McDade, outgoing secretary for education at the United States Catholic Conference in Washington, DC, serves ably as guest editor. Tom has drawn on his more than 20 years of experience in Catholic education and his distinguished tenure in Washington to bring together a series of essays offering us a dazzling array of current, helpful, and often critical information. Pending legislation, voucher programs, and the overall political climate in the U.S. Congress receive sharp analysis by leading scholars, politicians, lawyers, and researchers. This focus section will be invaluable to central office administrators, policy makers, and all who share a concern for the future of Catholic education in the United States. We hope, too, that our international readers will benefit from learning of struggles in the U.S. and be inspired to write us about their own political and legislative agenda.

This issue begins with an essay by Fr. William Byron, S.J., past president of The Catholic University of America. Byron draws attention to the social teachings of the Church and places them squarely within the mission of any Catholic educational institution. Catholic identity is explored in greater depth by Christopher Janosik, who identifies constitutive elements of such identity for colleges and universities.

In November 1997, the University of Dayton hosted the conference "Private Schools: Partners in American Education." As several papers from that conference connect well to the issues raised in our focus section, we offer them in this issue to contribute to the ongoing dialogue between Catholic schools and other private schools.

In our regular review of research, several current scholarly essays from other journals are reviewed, providing an interesting mix of ideas and issues that concern all who care about education.

We conclude with our book review section, this month featuring an interview with a Catholic educator par excellence, Thomas Groome.

We take this opportunity to salute our guest editor, Msgr. McDade, and to thank him for his service to Catholic education and to this journal. Tom returned to parish work in the Archdiocese of Newark in June. *Ad multos annos!*

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

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