

Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

Volume 50

Article 23

September 2016

Dear Conversationalists

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Recommended Citation

Howell, Patrick S.J. (2016) "Dear Conversationalists," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 50, Article 23.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol50/iss1/23>

Beyond ecology, what area of scientific inquiry do you think is most crucial for theology – and the humanities more broadly, for that matter – to engage in the years ahead?

Genetic research into the brain has tremendous potential to shift the meaning of what it means to be a human person with memory, understanding, and will. Every discipline in the humanities, theology not least of all, has a stake in making meaning of the outcomes of this research.

What are you yourself working on right now? What's your current project?

Diving deeper into one chapter of *Ask the Beasts*, I am currently researching the biblical idea of cosmic redemption for a monograph tentatively entitled "Creation and the Cross." The hope would be to develop further ecological theology's understanding of how the whole natural world will find its ultimate future in God, and "will share with us in unending plenitude."

Elizabeth Johnson, C.S.J., is Distinguished Professor of theology at Fordham University and former president of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the American Theological Society. She is the author or editor of 10 books, including Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love (Bloomsbury, 2014).

James P. McCartin is associate professor of theology at Fordham University, director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, and a former member of the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education.

Dear Conversationalists,

You will notice that we have launched a new era for *Conversations*. We now have access to full color for all of our pages, and we have significantly updated the layout. We calculate that the last time this was done was about 15 years ago. The new look and full color mean that we will be seeking more high quality photos for this and future issues. The *Conversations* board is very grateful to Pauline Heaney, valiant layout editor, for providing this new design which the board had a chance to review and to suggest alternatives at our April meeting at Rockhurst University.

The new printing process, still with Peacock Communications, is web-based so that our printing costs are actually reduced. Seems ironic, but it's true. The slight downside is that the trim of the magazine is about 1/4" less than it was before.

In addition, to the hard-copy changes, we now have a fresh new website up and running. Mounting this new site has been a considerable challenge since most of us on the board are "low tech." In addition, we had to change servers midstream from Adventure Studios to Square Space, which we believe will be much more user friendly and allow for frequent updates.

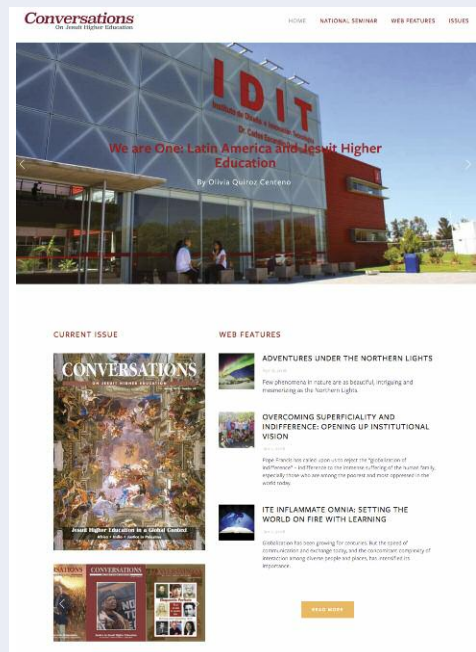
Currently, I am in dialogue with a Jesuit scholastic doing his

theology studies to see whether he can regularly monitor and update our website and keep it fresh. The website will allow us to "continue the conversation" between issues and to publish certain features, such as Youtube takes, in a timely manner.

Thank you for your generous support and readership, and we always appreciate hearing about how *Conversations* is being used and which articles or issues you have found most useful for advancing the Jesuit Catholic mission at your university or college.

Best wishes and blessings for this forthcoming academic year.

*Patrick Howell, S.J., chair
National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education*



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