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From the Editor: History Then, History Now

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History Then, History Now

This issue of *Conversations* brings you a number of history pieces. In the Jesuit world, 2014 marks 200 years since the order was reborn after Pope Clement XIV tried to do away with it in 1773. Readers will find the story of those tumultuous years in their very curious detail in the first couple of stories here.

The seminar on Jesuit higher education, whose journal this is, decided to use this anniversary not to do a complete study of historical causes and effects of this crisis but to examine how Jesuit schools responded to other social turning points – the Civil War, immigration, financial crises, changing Jesuit demographics, secularization. The world into which the Society of Jesus was reborn was very different from four decades earlier – the American and French revolutions had taken place and the American West was undergoing transformation. And the reborn order in the United States devoted considerable resources to the work of education, taking over leadership of some existing schools and founding many more. This

issue also includes a capsule history of the 28 current Jesuit colleges and universities and mentions four of those that have not survived.

While this issue was coming together, another event took place that future historians may well consider a significant turning point. On October 11, 2013, the superior general of the Jesuits, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, met with the presidents and the board chairs of the 28 schools. This was the first time such a meeting ever took place. Father Nicolás challenged these leaders to build a future with optimism and spiritual leadership. Some short excerpts from Father Nicolás's remarks and reflections by a board chair and by a president also appear in this issue.

Crisis, turning point, opportunity – they are related. What they lead to depends in many ways on all of us. But if our prologue past shows us anything, it is that great things are possible, great days lie ahead. ■

Edward W. Schmidt, S.J., editor

CORRECTIONS

Our previous issue of *Conversations* included some unfortunate mistakes. The artist whose beautiful work appeared on our cover is Ariana Assaf Jokers; we unfortunately misspelled her name. “Stories We Tell” by Karsonya Wise Whitehead and Jason Taylor and “A Neighborhood Partnership” by Ken Koth were inadvertently left out of the table of contents.

And we published an early text of “The Issue of Same-Sex Marriage” by Ennio Mastroianni rather than his final reworked version. To these artists and writers and to our readers, sincere apologies. The corrected version is available at <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/>