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## From the Editor's Desk

John P. Mullooly

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## From the Editor's Desk

### *Dissident Theologies*

Over the past several months, reaction to the recent encyclical of Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*, have been published in various periodicals. The reactions are predictable. Those of the dissident theologians are negative and those of the theologians adhering to the magisterium are enthusiastic.

This goes to prove one thing. Once a theologian goes down one path, he never returns. A monsignor told me that over 20 years ago. We were discussing a young theologian who left the priesthood and married. I befriended the brilliant theologian, hoping that my influence would help. As the years went on, I came to the same conclusion as the monsignor. Once down that path, they never return.

And so it is today, the dissident theologians will never return. Why this should be, I don't know. It probably has something to do with intellectual hubris or, in the Latin, *non serviam*, "I shall not serve". Pride is one of the seven Capitol Sins, in fact it is the leading one. As is often said, "Pride goeth before a fall."

In any event, *Veritatis Splendor* is a welcome encyclical, dispelling much of the confusion spread by dissident theologians over the past 20 years. The Pope points out that there is objective truth and objective morality.

In the newsletter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, there is an analysis of the encyclical written by Janet Smith. It is with delight that this analysis is read and it is our hope that our readers are supporters of the Catholic Scholars.

On another matter, it is welcome news that the Catholic Church is emulating our Baptist brethren in the project on chastity that I mentioned in my last editorial. A release was just published by the United States Bishops' Conference noting that they are setting up similar programs on teen chastity.

— **John P. Mullooly, M.D.**  
**Editor**

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