Letter to Readers, Table of Contents, and Members of the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education

Editorial Board

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Dear Reader,

A little over a year ago, as a followup to “Assembly 1989” held at Georgetown University on the occasion of two hundred years of Jesuit education in the United States, the Jesuit Conference Board (the ten Jesuit Provincials) and the Board of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (the 28 Presidents) agreed to joint sponsorship of a National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education. One of the primary purposes of this Seminar would be to publish materials on major issues which affect the apostolate of American Jesuit higher education today; the expectation was that these materials would promote conversation, discussion, planning and action among all those involved in American Jesuit colleges and universities.

In response to their mandate, the members of the Seminar decided to publish a journal, to be called Conversations, twice a year; this is the first issue of that journal. It is being distributed, free of charge, to faculty, administrators, professional staff, and boards of trustees. We hope that you will read it, and that you will find it enjoyable.

More important, however, we hope that the material contained in this and in future issues of Conversations will be a basis for discussions on each campus - discussions which can help to clarify and promote the identity of each college or university. For this is the real purpose of the Seminar and of its publications.

We want to thank the members of the Seminar for their work, and congratulate them on the quality of this first issue. We want also to thank each of you for your work in Jesuit higher education. And we look forward to working with you in the future, on this and on similar projects.

Sincerely yours,

Paul S. Tipton, SJ
President, AJCU

Patrick J. Burns, SJ
President, Jesuit Conference

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