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From the Editor: Spiritual Exercises Bring Special Spirit to Campus

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**From the Editor**

**Spiritual Exercises Bring Special Spirit to Campus**

In *Conversations* 44, Fall 2013, I wrote my first page 1 introduction as the new editor. I had moved from *America* magazine in New York to a new mission as a translator and editor at the Institute of Jesuit Sources in St. Louis, right across Lindell Blvd. from St. Louis U. I wrote that it was great to be back at a campus, to sense the energy and excitement of a new school year, to feel the campus rhythms, to see the hope on many faces.

I have left that behind again. The Institute of Jesuit Sources, which translates and publishes basic Jesuit texts, has begun a new life at Boston College. And although I very much appreciated being part of it, I felt that I had done what I could for the project I was working on. So, with blessing from Jesuit superiors, I returned to New York and *America*, where great new things are happening.

This issue of *Conversations* features the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, the foundation of Jesuit spirituality and thus of the spirit that animates much of our mission in education. It is clear that these Exercises exert a growing influence over a lot of the college and university communities in explicit retreats based on them and in programs that seek to bring their dynamics to events and attitudes on campus and beyond. The Exercises make an impact on the teaching and the campus life of the Jesuit schools in many ways.

Some articles here take up specific aspects of the Exercises such as discernment; some show the impact on more defined areas like science of the arts; and some describe the long-term impact of the Exercises on individuals. We note too how the Exercises have something to offer a Buddhist or an atheist. Not every individual on every campus has experienced the Spiritual Exercises have something to offer a Buddhist or an atheist. Not every individual on every campus has experienced the Spiritual Exercises.

But schools often have major impact on their communities in academic exercises, physical exercises and, as our authors demonstrate here, Spiritual Exercises in a host of helpful ways.

Edward W. Schmidt, S.J., editor