

August 21, 2015

Dear Colleagues in Jesuit Mission and Identity,

I am pleased to share with you the fall edition of *Conversations* (PDF enclosed). The print edition has been shipped to your campus, and it should be arriving shortly or already there.

Our theme for this issue *Daunting Challenges for Jesuit Higher Education* was one of our more formidable efforts. We wanted to hit the right tone, but also to provide the framework for a vigorous conversation on the multiple factors hitting our campuses today. The keynote by Bob Dullea and Heather Geiger strikes the overture and then multiple, knowledgeable voices chime in.

Simultaneously, we will do a total refresh of our website, which we inaugurated last February. <http://conversationsmagazine.org/> By early September we will post key articles, including links to all the previous issues over the last 20 years. We will also have some features available only on the website. Good examples are two articles on the experiences of women on Jesuit campuses and then Part II of Fr. Pat Kelly's thoughtful article on intercollegiate athletics.

If you're looking for ideas and vehicles for engaging your campus through *Conversations*, I suggest you contact your peers at Creighton, **Xavier**, or Spring Hill. They each seem to make extensive use of its multiple features. And, of course, we always enjoy hearing about how it's been received on your campus.

When the National Seminar meets at Loyola in Chicago, we will be welcoming new members: Molly Pepper (Gonzaga); Julie Rubio (St. Louis); Jennifer Rinella (Rockhurst); and Heidi Barker (Regis). We will be holding our January meeting at Loyola Baltimore and our April meeting at Rockhurst. As usual, we look forward to all these local incarnations of the Jesuit mission.

With gratitude for all your leadership and good labors,

Patrick Howell, S.J., chair
National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education
Seattle University
Seattle, WA 98122