

## A Catholic University: Other Catholic Voices

### Exploring the Jesuit and Catholic dimensions of the university's mission

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Several other contributions to the discussion of the nature of a Catholic university can be recommended:

- David J. O'Brien's *From the Heart of the American Church: Catholic Higher Education and American Culture* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1994). Its title echoes that of the papal document *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. O'Brien explores the historical and ecclesial context for the current debates about what makes a Catholic institution Catholic.
- The distinguished former president of the University of Notre Dame, Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., invited 29 members of the faculty and administration from various fields at that institution to contribute to a volume about the critical issues in contemporary Catholic higher education. The result is *The Challenge and Promise of a Catholic University*, ed. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. (South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994).
- George Dennis O'Brien, former president of the University of Rochester and frequent writer on higher education issues, has published a philosophical analysis of the Catholic university, *The Idea of a Catholic University* (University of Chicago Press, 2002).
- Rev. James H. Provost was chair of the department of canon law at The Catholic University of America. In 1994, during the early stages of the *Ex Corde* debate, he wrote an interesting article, "The Sides of Catholic Identity" for *Current Issues in Catholic Higher Education*, 14 (2), 1994. It was reprinted in *Enhancing Religious Identity: Best Practices from Catholic Campuses*, ed. John Wilcox and Irene King (Georgetown University Press, 2000), 18-26. In the article he makes an interesting distinction, between "outside" Catholic identity - the public label on a college or university, its relationship to hierarchy and official structures - and the more important "inside" identity - the culture or spirit that animates the institutional life, summed up for Provost in two concepts, communion and mission.
- An article by Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J., "[The Advantages of a Catholic University](#)", *America* (May 20, 2002), 19-21. In contrast to views that hold that religion belongs to the private sector but has no place in the university, or that all points of view may properly be represented in the university while the university itself must remain neutral, or that a university may properly dedicate itself to the Catholic intellectual tradition while respecting the right of other traditions to maintain their own heritages, Dulles argues that Catholic universities have unique qualifications for the discovery and dissemination of truth.

- Why do people devote their lives to research in a field like biology or mathematics or history? What motivates the drive to *know*? What is the *whole* that the work of knowing a particular subject is contributing to? John C. Haughey, a Jesuit theologian affiliated with the Woodstock Center at Georgetown University, takes these questions as the starting point for an exploration of the authentic "catholicity" that he thinks ought to be the business of "Catholic" universities but often isn't in *Where is Knowing Going?: The Horizons of the Knowing Subject* (Georgetown University Press, 2009).