

## *Message from the Editor-In-Chief*

-by Ryan J. Barilleaux

When I was an eager college student majoring in political science, my mentor spoke to me about the academic enterprise. He said that one virtue of being a scholar in the United States is that, if one cannot find an outlet for one's work, it is possible to start a new journal. Of course, this is much easier said than done, but it is possible. The catch is that it takes a back-breaking amount of effort to accomplish.

The story of the *Catholic Social Science Review* is a case-study of my mentor's remarks. Through what must be a divinely-inspired act of the intellect, and a Pauline refusal to give up, Joe Varacalli, Steve Krason, Dominic Aquila, Patrick Foley, Don D'Elia and others brought a new academic journal into being and kept it alive and growing. But it would be no ordinary journal, for its whole purpose is to provide a forum for orthodox Catholic scholarship in the fields of social science. And what a journal they produced! And I am its new guardian.

It has been humbling to take up what Joe Varacalli pioneered. Working with almost no budget or staff assistance, he created a journal that held itself to the highest standards of scholarship and charity. It held itself to no party line save one: that every contribution be consistent with the orthodox teachings of the Catholic Church. It included work from established senior scholars and bright young ones. It was not just a mouthpiece for its editorial team; it was a legitimate forum for good scholarship from the social sciences broadly conceived. And it quickly became an international journal, including contributions from Europe and Asia, as well as from the United States.

Joe has stepped down as editor-in-chief, but remains on our masthead as editor-at-large. We of the *Review* staff, as well as the Society of Catholic Social Scientists and the larger community of scholars interested in the truth, owe Professor Joseph Varacalli a heartfelt thanks for a job superbly done. We are grateful that he has agreed to keep his name in association with our work, and look forward to a long time of relying on him for advice.

From the beginning, the *Review* has been exactly what Joe Varacalli called it: a labor of love. Each issue is put together by an editorial team made up of volunteers, who contribute their time and talents for a cause that they believe in, and I am continually impressed with what this team has accomplished and continues to do. Our publisher, Steve Krason, and the associate and assistant

editors, all make enormous efforts to produce a first-class volume of scholarship. I give my most sincere thanks to everyone involved in the effort, but especially Professor John Schrems and his associate Margaret King, who do the difficult and detailed work of preparing manuscripts for publication. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this volume in any way.

As we proceed into the second generation of the *Catholic Social Science Review*, I hope that I can maintain the high standards of Joe Varacalli and his original team. If we even come close, I will be satisfied.