



From the Editor

We are happy to present this 23rd edition of the *Catholic Social Science Review*.

When I was in the habit of watching the game show *Jeopardy!* on television in my youth, I remember a category called Potpourri. Potpourri answers were those that did not belong to a unified field; that is, they were from all over the landscape of knowledge.

This journal is interdisciplinary, and deliberately so. The members of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists are all committed to the Church's social teaching, but we come from different disciplines—sociology, psychology, political science, history, law and many others as well. We believe that the Church's social teaching is applicable broadly and specifically to a whole host of things. We believe further that the truth is indivisible all the while that there are quite different perspectives on which we can approach the truth.

This journal, containing as it does contributions from theologians, philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, lawyers and other specialists, may just appear to some to be a random collection of concepts, ideas and thoughts. In other words, it might come off as a potpourri. It is not that, I say respectfully.

The contributions before the readers of this journal are wide-ranging yet complementary. For instance, in this edition, we have two articles on education. These are essays on what is necessary to be considered well-educated persons, men and women whose self-mastery sets them apart from their peers who attain only a technical proficiency in life and thereby avoid the pressing matters of the soul. The authors cite leading figures in the Catholic intellectual tradition like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Thomas Aquinas, indicating how these Doctors of the Church have shaped the thinking of Blessed John Henry Newman and Jacques Maritain, men who raised critical issues about education in their own time and whose reasoned assessments then are still influencing our thinking now. We have three articles in this issue with a deeply historical orientation. One author rightly points out how the Incarnation is the decisive moment in history and insures an indubitable foundation for making judgments amidst the contingencies all around us. Two of our other authors call attention to the reality of conversion, how this fact of life widens horizons and makes us alert to the responsibilities we all bear within the one human family. And then there is a staple of this *Review*—the symposium, essays from schol-

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ars in one field who take up key questions together. In this edition of the *Review*, four contributors address the nettlesome issues surrounding the interplay of faith and culture. Their incisive observations call us to a more mature and more faithful integration of what we believe and how we live within the *polis*. There is of course much more here for your reading pleasure and edification. We invite you then, if I can say so, *tollere et legere* (to take and to read).

We are always looking for suitable submissions to the *Review*. We hasten to add that the submissions must be well-written and abide by all the prescriptions set forth for potential contributors on our website and in the front of this volume. We thank our readers for their support. We promise always to publish a journal worthy of the best reflections on Catholic social thought.

Msgr. Robert J. Batule
Editor-in-Chief