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From the Editor's Desk

The 58th volume of Theological Studies comes to you with some slight formatting changes suggested by respondents to our readership survey last year. Now articles and notes are preceded by brief overviews; short biographies about authors are provided on the first page of the text (especially useful for offprints). The previous feature "Presenting the Issue" has become "From the Editor's Desk," an opportunity to reflect together on the journal's mission, and on issues facing the academy and the Church. Further changes in layout and for the journal's cover are under consideration for the next volume.

We thank all those readers who responded to our survey. Already the board of directors and the editorial consultants have studied your feedback closely. We were gratified by the high level of satisfaction you registered. At the same time we take seriously your suggestions for improvement. Impressive is the variety of our subscribers' backgrounds and the kinds of involvement in teaching and ministry. Our readers include many beyond the shores of North America as well as an ecumenical cross section of theological traditions.

Our aim as a journal remains to provide a forum for serious theological discourse by exploring the sources and development of Christian doctrine and practice. We seek to encourage dialogue within the wider ecclesial community. We are committed to the renewal of our society and Church in the ongoing reception of the Second Vatican Council. Since the journal's first decade in the 1940s, our base of authors and readers has expanded notably. Originally most of the writers were Jesuit professors working in a theologate or seminary. Today, though still under Jesuit sponsorship, the journal is pleased to draw upon a widely expanded base of collaborators, women and men trained at various campuses and professionally active in many different settings.

In my own recent study of theological journals worldwide, I have counted some 75 journals in English around the globe (not including periodicals specifically devoted to ethics, church history, liturgy, spirituality, ecumenism, or canon law) plus a number of foreign journals that publish in several languages including English. Despite the fact that publishing theologians now have many more choices, we trust that TS remains a valuable vehicle for the enrichment of faith.

Each year we usually receive over 200 manuscript submissions. Even with smaller type font recently introduced, we are able to publish each year only about 25 articles. We rely principally on the research interests of our colleagues. Some excellent submissions are judged to be more suited for another journal with a slightly different thrust. For those who are considering submitting an article, we ask them to follow the directives printed on the inside front cover of each