Introduction

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Introduction

Welcome to this inaugural issue of *The International Journal of Evangelization and Catechetics*. The inspiration for launching this journal came from recent Ph.D. graduates in Catechetics who did their studies here at The Catholic University of America's School of Theology and Religious Studies. They noted the need for a peer-reviewed journal in the areas of catechetics and evangelization and thought that Catholic University with its long involvement in preparing and educating people for work in these areas in various contexts, such as a university, seminary, diocese, or parish, would be an ideal venue for this publishing venture. Both the Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies and the Director of CUA Press gave their enthusiastic support. With the help of a focus group and in consultation with professionals working in the two areas, the idea for the journal was further refined and an editorial board and advisory editorial board assembled. You have now the end-result of all the efforts to transform an idea into a reality. We are very grateful to the many people who have helped us along the way.

The International Journal of Evangelization and Catechetics (IJEC) is a peer reviewed, interdisciplinary journal published by CUA Press and sponsored by the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America. Following Pope Francis's call in *The Joy of the Gospel* for a dialogue between science and faith as part of the work of evangelization, our journal presents scholarly articles in the fields of evangelization, catechetics and liturgical catechesis attentive to advances in the human and social sciences and faithful to the Catholic theological tradition.

We complement these in-depth explorations of important topics in evangelization, catechetics, and liturgical catechesis with a section with more pastorally oriented essays as well as book reviews. Our aim is for *IJEC* to be an important resource for scholars, teachers in seminaries, colleges, and universities, directors of faith-formation in parishes and dioceses, catechists, and others in positions of catechetical leadership and evangelization ministry.

We are very pleased that in this inaugural issue we have in our *Studia* section scholarly essays on evangelizing catechesis, liturgical catechesis,

and the Code of Canon Law on catechesis. In our *Practica* section we cover important pastoral topics: evangelization in a parish, campus ministry on a college campus, and a retreat program in a Catholic school. Book reviews of recently published works in our fields follow the essay sections. Our hope is that this issue and those to follow will stimulate your own thinking and approach to work in evangelization and catechetics and contribute to a renewal of these fields in the Church today.

RAYMOND STUDZINSKI, O.S.B.

Editor