Summer 1985

Introduction to Current Issues in Catholic Higher Education: Beyond Basketball

Alice Gallin O.S.U.
The College of New Rochelle

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.cnr.edu/gallin-works

Part of the Catholic Studies Commons, and the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Works of CNR Ursulines at Digital Commons @ CNR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Works of Sister Alice Gallin by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ CNR. For more information, please contact lfazzino@cnr.edu.
Introduction

When I was growing up in Westchester County, NY, we all knew the University of Notre Dame. Why? Because of Knute Rockne and his famous football teams and because every year they came to Yankee Stadium and (hopefully!) defeated the Army. In the spring of 1985, everybody in the United States seemed to know Villanova, Georgetown, and St. John’s as they battled for the NCAA basketball championship—apart from Memphis State, the tournament seemed to be a “Catholic” thing! I am sure you were as happy as I that the announcers referred time and time again to our institutions’ excellent record in graduating their student athletes.

I love sports and (believe it or not!) played both football and basketball, but I do find myself wishing that our Catholic colleges and universities rated media attention for some of the other excellent things we do. So many of our 235 institutions seem to fall into the category of “invisible” colleges despite the solid academic curricula they have and the innovative programs which they sponsor for both traditional and non-traditional students. So few of the members of prestigious national committees seem to come from our constituency, and this in turn seems to affect the “models” selected for study in national reports.

Yet, here in the office of ACCU, we read of the first U.S. faculty member asked to set up an engineering program in China, a highly successful program for educating the children of migrant workers right on up to law school, a curriculum structured on “Valuing”, a two-year college with a strong orientation toward the local urban community, and several inter-university cooperative research projects. How many of these are highlighted in the national press? Perhaps we need to be a bit more aggressive in publicizing the good things we are doing.

In this edition of Current Issues we try to do that. First of all, the papers delivered at the Annual Meeting in January 1985 are published here since so many of those at the sessions asked for copies of them. In addition, we have two articles, one by Dean William J. Parente on the Catholicity of our institutions and the other by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin calling students to a commitment with what we are doing academically and in terms of our religious tradition. What are we doing to energize scholars? How are we supporting them? Where is the focus on the wealth of artistic talent on so many of our campuses? Have we some lights hidden under bushel baskets? Let us put them on the lampstand. Only they can create a meaningful context for basketball!  

Alice Gallin, OSU  
Executive Director, ACCU