

ALUMNI ON CAPITOL HILL



I AM STUNNED by the clamor in your Summer issue's letters to the editor that railed against the center-left views of Jesuit graduates working in the Obama administration.

Surely you have some correspondents who take a realistic, less-conservative view of the issues facing us all. Let them be heard.

Vince Burns
Santa Paula, California
Loyola High School, Los Angeles '54
Santa Clara University '58

I WAS DISMAYED by the letters in your Summer issue that spoke of Catholic social teaching but only in the narrow, single-issue sense of abortion.

The Jesuit education that I and my children and sons-in-law received from Fordham, Saint Louis University, University of San Francisco, Scranton, John Carroll, and Weston Jesuit taught us the totality of Catholic social teaching from war and capital punishment to immigration, health care, and concern for the poor and marginalized.

We can't be "people for others" without addressing all of these issues. That's how a Jesuit education informs us.

Stan Fitzgerald
San Jose, California
Xavier High School, New York '53
Fordham University '57

THE LETTERS in your last issue about Jesuit alumni serving our president suggest your correspondents were shortchanged in several areas once held sacred in Jesuit education. One is cautious word choice, another is a broad and profound sense of perspective, but most telling is a tolerance for less-than-perfection.

The writers seem to forget our Savior can work miracles with materials as unpromising as mud and spit.

If the president is as villainous as your correspondents suggest, I'm glad he's got a few savvy (flawed but articulate) Jesuit alumni to keep him balanced.

William O'Malley, SJ
Fordham Prep
Bronx

I AM ELATED that *Company* included an article about Jesuit alumni who chose to work in the national government. To me, this is an excellent example of "doers of the Word."

In a nation and world beset with horrendous suffering and problems, these valiant people are God's servants, evidence of faith in action.

God has no voice, no hands, except those of his children. He calls each according to his plan.

If the criterion for employment is agreement with one's supervisor, so many of the hungry would starve, the naked remain unclothed, the uneducated relegated to ignorance, and the widows and orphans abandoned.

Not only would most of us not have jobs, but also most would not take the risks needed to perform in God's name.

C.A. Dashiell
Baltimore

THE LETTERS published in your Summer 2009 issue about Jesuit alumni serving in Washington, D.C., exemplify the misplaced beliefs and priorities of many Catholics in the United States.

We all agree, including our president and the Jesuit graduates who support him and most medical and biological scientists, that abortion should be avoided and stem cell research needs to be carefully guided by ethical principles.

The question is how this is to be done within the constitution and laws of the United States and in light of the considerable cultural, religious, and political diversity of its population.

Donald Pinkel, MD
Canisius High School '44
Canisius College '47

I WAS SADDENED by the letter writers who were dismayed that you wrote about Jesuit-educated staffers in the Obama administration.

President Obama is not without fault, but let's not condemn him or his staff. As Ignatius helped us understand, we are to carry the gospel message to all places. It is important not to judge anyone who works for the current president because of the president's stand on abortion.

I supported Obama in the last election not because of his position on abortion but because he offered hope for constructive change. Let's keep the dialogue going. Condemnation kills any chance to find common ground.

State Representative Jim Wayne
Louisville, Kentucky

THE FIRST four letters to the editor in your Summer issue were from readers who were disappointed, to say the least, that the magazine mentioned Jesuit alumni working on Capitol Hill in an environment that does not explicitly support the tenets of Catholic social and moral teaching.

I was disappointed in the narrow scope of these readers.

The Catholic schools I attended from seventh grade through law school wel-

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welcomes letters to the editor.

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comed student bodies from different racial, ethnic, economic, and faith backgrounds. The “Catholic” way was not the only philosophy presented; there was a critical examination of all of the policies and philosophies that impact human lives.

Those of us contemplating public service were taught to serve the public—not just the Catholic public—and not to force others to accept Catholicism in place of their own beliefs.

*Lisa Swinton McLaughlin, MD, JD
Washington, D.C.
Creighton University '79, '83*

CRISTO REY



AFTER READING Karen Crandal's feature article “Work & Study: The Cristo Rey model of schooling is a study in success” [Summer 2009, page 10], I am reminded how humbling yet transforming Jesuit education is for one another.

Teaching and learning from college students on a daily basis, I inherit the tremendous spirit of Jesuit secondary school students and teachers steeped in a critical mindset. The Cristo Rey model is a great example of this contemplation in action.

*Robert Parmach
Freshman Dean
Fordham University
Bronx*

ORDINATIONS



I ALWAYS READ *Company* with pleasure, particularly the presentation of the smiling ordained Jesuits [Summer 2009, page 17]. I'm really happy to see them in clerics, dressed as priests rather than as laymen, very typical in Europe.

*Andrea Sari
Ulm, Germany*

SEISMOLOGY

IN REFERENCE to your story “The Jesuit Science” [Summer 2009, page 28], I knew Xavier University seismologist Fr. Ed Bradley, SJ. When I was a Jesuit in the juniorate, a Jesuit “villa” was within walking distance of Xavier. Bradley had built a seismology station at the villa, and he'd make the hour and a half round trip each day to maintain the equipment.

I was at the villa once when he was going to be out of town, so he asked me to change the photo paper every day on the drums that recorded seismic movement. I had been in the camera club at Xavier High School in Cincinnati and was comfortable working in a dark room illuminated by a single yellow light not sensitive to the photo paper.

*Henry Meek
Cincinnati
Boston College '67*

A PARAGUAYAN OF NOTE



Ruiz de Montoya, SJ

COMPANY IS AN EXCELLENT magazine that I read with much interest. However, on page 7 in your “Things Past” notes [Spring 2009], it is stated that Ruiz de Montoya was Portuguese.

He was actually born in Lima in the late 1500s, entered the Society there, and became the great organizer of Paraguayan reductions (founding at least thirteen) to protect the native population from slavers.

Ruiz de Montoya wrote the first grammar of the Guaraní language as well as a history of the reductions, and his spiritual writings were of great importance in his time.

Our new Jesuit university in Lima carries his name: la Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya. His life would make a great story for *Company*.

*Frank Chamberlain, SJ
Ayacucho, Peru*

Correction



On page six of your Spring issue, it states that Ahn “Joseph” Cao is a Democrat from Louisiana when, in fact, he is a Republican.

*Veronica O'Hagan
Des Moines, Iowa*

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