

[4-8-1969]

The National Catholic Educational Association asked me back for another keynoter. How much had changed in those brief eight years! I like to believe that all of us grew in adversity, of which we had plenty in those years. I like this essay since it brings together so many of the things that had been stirring within me and happening, too. This is a long step from the opening essay on the Catholic University in Twentieth Century America.

Change had fascinated me since the early days of studying philosophy. One of the first university talks I gave was at the University of Chicago on the subject "Change and the Changeless." I did not realize at that time how much change was in store for us and our world, but somehow, pondering the necessity of stability in the face of change, seeing change as growth and forward movement, was good preparation for what was to come.

Change has a destabilizing effect on many people and many institutions. It seemed important at this moment to insist with my colleagues in Catholic higher education that we should take a good positive look at the changes all around us and ahead of us in order to grow and progress, rather than despair and fall apart.

This essay, after looking at change in general, takes a new look at what it means for the governance of our universities, for our faculties and students. There are many familiar themes here and many to which I will return in the pages yet to come. By now, those who have perduced thus far will have a good idea of what concerns me most: vision, values, change, freedom, relevance, and academic openness to a new day, ever aborning.