

Many times throughout these essays I have used the word "Church." Since I have been mainly addressing problems and possibilities of Catholic education and Catholic universities, it will come as a surprise to no one that when I write "Church," I am referring to the Roman Catholic Church.

That creates a bit of a problem, mainly because the Church is stereotyped by many to mean something or other that it really is not. This problem is further complicated by the fact that the ancient Church, "Ever old, ever new," is quite new these days, mainly due to Vatican Council II.

Relatively few people, even Catholics, understand this in its full reality. For this reason, I am here adding an essay on what seems to have happened in opening up a Church which was glacially stable and closed during the four and a half centuries following the Reformation.

It is important, especially for those interested in education, to understand these changes in the Church, which in my judgment are mainly for the good, especially when one views the relationship between the Church and higher education. While the Church in America supports and largely controls parochial elementary and secondary education, albeit in a surprisingly decentralized fashion, Catholic colleges and universities, with very few exceptions, are not chartered or controlled, or even financially supported, by the authorities of the Church, the hierarchy. People are always surprised when I tell them that Notre Dame has not had a nickle of support from the Catholic Church for over a century. They are further surprised

to learn that Notre Dame is controlled by a Board of 45 Trustees, only seven of whom are clerics, the rest laymen and laywomen, not all Catholics.

In any event, it seemed helpful to include at this juncture this essay on the changing Church which still preserves what is essential: all that is true and good and beautiful, while undergoing that which the Italians call aggiornamento, and we pragmatically say, getting up-to-date. Having done that, this first section, mostly on Catholic higher education, will forthwith conclude.