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From the Editor's Desk

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From the Editor's Desk

**Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., Editor-in-Chief
Saint Meinrad Archabbey**

Our 30th Anniversary Edition of *The Journal of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium* is even more exciting than our first volume. The two questions posed at the 1978 meeting – whether one can be a serious black Catholic theologian, and whether one can at the same time be authentically black – have been answered unambiguously and in the affirmative. Our 30-year history, the scholarship and leadership of our members, and this *Journal* are testament to that fact. Many of us remain on the margins, not truly belonging in our respective disciplines or fitting in at our institutions. Slowly, however, that perception continues to change. The fellowship of the BCTS has allowed many of us to blossom, and our voices are beginning to be heard.

The articles in this second volume treat of religion and the legacy of slavery. The article on the abolition of the slave trade reminds us of the role of Catholicism for slaves and slave holders alike, as well as traders and abolitionists. Massingale's call for racial reconciliation writes of slavery's legacy and how it has permeated history, from ancient Greece with poets like Hesiod to the tragedy and passion of the poetry of Claude McKay. Bartlett uses critical race theory to analyze the lived experiences of black Catholics in predominantly white parishes. Finally,

the second installment of Creary's article on marriage practices in colonial Zimbabwe demonstrates the role of compromise in culturally sensitive situations.

We have added two book reviews. It is our desire to call attention to the wide range of scholarship related to black Catholic studies. Our colleague, Jon Nilson, has published a critical study on black Theology and white Catholic Theologians and Paula Giddings has written a biography of Ida B. Wells, a woman of courage and determination in her fight against lynching, the legacy of slavery and the silence of Catholicism.