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From the Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

Upon being asked to serve as editor of *Faith and Philosophy*, I wondered whether the appointment was contingent upon a change of forename. After all, only Bills (Alston, Wainwright, and Hasker) and Phils (Quinn) had previously held the position. Clearly, a Tom seems ill-equipped to join this fraternity. Were my differences from my predecessors purely nominal, I (and you) would have little to worry about. But neither rhyme nor reason, one might say, were behind this appointment. Indeed, I am keenly aware both of my own limitations and of the standards which the former editors have established. I can promise, though, that I will endeavor to follow their example.

The journal they have nurtured is, by general consensus, the leader in Christian philosophy today. This reputation is based on the high quality of the work published. Maintaining this quality is my paramount obligation. As I see it, though, producing high quality work is compatible with incorporating occasional levity within and exhibiting humility about such work; stuffiness and pomposity are occupational vices that I hope *Faith and Philosophy* can avoid. Also to be avoided are excessively eclectic or rigidly monolithic editorial policies. Though the journal has always been open to submissions representing other approaches or areas of philosophy, a significant majority of the articles have been examples of analytic philosophy of religion. I see no reason to change this balance.

Nor, fortunately, is there need to change those who have so ably assisted previous editors. Mike Peterson, the only Managing Editor the journal has ever known, has generously agreed to remain at his post, as has Book Review Editor Charles Taliaferro. I am grateful that we will continue to benefit from the selfless work of such dedicated colleagues.

The dedication of those who serve on the Board of Editorial Consultants also deserves mention. Authors can learn much (of a moral nature, at least) from slipshod referees' reports, but they learn much more from those that are composed with care and concern. The latter sort have always been, and I pray will always be, the norm at *Faith and Philosophy*.

A final word on prayer. My two immediate predecessors each concluded his introductory letter by asking readers to pray for the success of the journal and of Christian philosophy. I can think of no better way to conclude this letter than by repeating that request.

Thomas P. Flint