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Welcome by Way of a Proem

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WELCOME BY WAY OF A PROEM

The name of our journal, Obsculta, honors the Benedictine values and tradition which have shaped our institution for generations. "Obsculta," the first word in the Rule of St. Benedict, is the Latin imperative for, "listen". The Rule has been molding monastic communities for almost 1,500 years, and it continues to shape the lives of lay and religious people today.

This volume is the 2018 edition of Obsculta, and it reflects and celebrates the diverse and unique culture within our community. The Saint John's University School of Theology and Seminary is deeply rooted in the expansive Christian tradition and dedicated to equipping women and men with the necessary skills and competencies to serve our world.

Contributions to this year's edition of Obsculta represent what it truly means to, "listen" by beginning dialogues that transcend across faith barriers. Buddhist, Protestant, and Catholic schools of thought are found within this journal; each demonstrating that after one truly listens to the ear of one's heart, as Benedict instructs, beautiful and stimulating ideas, concepts, and lessons begin to take shape.

Our piece from the archives recalls the sometimesturbulent atmosphere of the Protestant Reformation with a comparison between Müntzer's and Luther's theologies regarding the injustices within the context of the Peasants War of 1525.

Our 11th edition of the student journal of Theology gives testament to the numerous opportunities of study and spiritual growth the Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary offers. For over a decade of publication, the community here has striven for excellence in our writing, from dialoguing about theologians such as Hans Urs von Balthasar in the classroom, to developing and preaching sermons with the intention of strengthening community life, the range of material our students produce year after year inspires and pushes us forward.

We now invite you to delve into the pages of our journal and follow St. Benedict's venerable command, obsculta.

Much Shalom,

Obsculta Editorial Team