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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Volume 13, issue no. 2 of the journal of the Department of Religious Studies, *Verbum* is right now in your hands: enjoy its contents and then find the various articles, essays, poems, photos, and much more on-line for the full effect of color, digitization, and other surprises. Did you know that you can actually check the few or many times an item published in one of the 26 issues of *Verbum* has been accessed by individuals from other parts of the world?

In this issue you will be pleased to learn what the difference between the Jewish Tanak and the Christian Old Testament is, read about former Fisher Faculty, Dr. Crombach’s quest to find and replace in a more visible place the bronze statue of St. John Fisher commissioned by the Fisher class of 1965, and enjoy some lovely poems by students and faculty members.

The *Alumni Corner returns* bringing us news about 4 former Fisher students, the two couples of Jodi and Jon, and George and Amy. The central focus of the journal remains *Essays on Religion*, where you will find students’ papers on a film and on the current ecological crisis that we all need to respond to in a great variety of positive actions.

Before putting this copy down or passing it on to a family member or friend, take a brief mental detour to read how students view the world around them from the vantage point of their faith, or the way they reminisce about the influence their parents had on their human/spiritual growth.

Last but not least, discover who was Irving Singer, and follow the intricate presentation of a former Religious Studies Minor of the criteria followed by the early Christian Church in the formation of the Canon of the New Testament.

On the behalf of the whole Department of Religious Studies, I wish you good and thoughtful reading, asking everyone – as always – to give some thought to contributing a writing for next year’s volume 14 of *Verbum*.

Dr. Rev. Michael Costanzo
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So, good Lord, do now in like manner again with thy Church militant; Change and make soft and slippery earth into hard stones; Set in thy Church strong and mighty pillars that may suffer and endure Great labours, watching, poverty, thirst, hunger, cold and heat; Which also shall not fear the threatings of princes, Persecution, neither death but always persuade and think With themself to suffer with a good will, Slanders, shame and all kinds of torments For the glory and laud of Thy Holy Name.

(This prayer was spoken in the last year of Henry VII; it was fulfilled In the author’s person twenty-seven years later on Tower Hill.)

[From the Preface (June 15, 1914] by J.S. Phillimore, M.A. to the 2-volume Commentary on the Seven Penitential Psalms By John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester First published in A.D. 1509]