

Acknowledgements

The pleasure of assembling this tribute to Joe Goering began with our communications with his colleagues, many of them former students of his: the rush of enthusiasm that greeted our invitations to contribute confirmed our own sense that a *Festschrift* was not only a *desideratum*, but even a *mandatum*. We thank them warmly for their contributions and their gracious work with us throughout the processes of editorial and peer review, and preparation for the press. Our invitations also elicited sincere regrets from those unable to contribute because of the timing of the project, the constraints of the topics, or the welter of competing commitments more than fully occupying them. Their responses, filled with anecdotes and reflections, became for us a virtual and vast *tabula gratulatoria*, in which we saw the breadth of the community of scholars Joe has touched, and the depth of their respect and affection for him.

We shaped the volume around three primary areas of Joe's own scholarship: schools, ecclesiastical administration and law, and pastoral care. Throughout his career, he has shown how traversing these areas of both speculative and practical knowledge is essential to our understanding of the medieval Church, medieval universities, and medieval society. Joe has quietly but tirelessly argued that the intellectual work of the medieval schools was sophisticated, nuanced, and filled with lively debate; that the disciplines of law and theology had numerous intersections; that popular piety was rich in surprising narratives and imagery; that clergy and laity operated in concert as much as in conflict; and perhaps most importantly, that the intentions to press the boundaries of learning, to deepen faith, and to share the wonders of human creativity were as alive in the later middle ages as in any other age. Following these lines of thought, our efforts to bring this project to fruition were generously assisted by reviewers with expertise in these fields, as well as by anonymous readers secured by the press, whose comments guided us and the authors toward the precision and subtlety that Joe has modeled for us in his work.

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