

# SALT & LIGHT:

Engaging the University in  
Presence & Conversation

Graduate & Faculty Ministries  
National Staff Meetings

*March 15-17, 2016  
Mundelein, Illinois*

## CONVERSATION AS CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

**Terry Halliday**

To sustain a conversation cultivates -- is enabled by -- Christian virtues -- humility, empathy, love, long-suffering, patience, kindness, encouragement.

To my conversation partner I can convey:

- Humility = I don't know, I want to learn from you
- Encouragement – you know something I don't. I affirm your knowledge, insight, and learning.
- Patience – I may be thinking to myself, this conversation is not easy. It may be annoying, frustrating. The other person may engage in the classic academic pathology of monologues. Thus I get practice at patience.
- Mutuality – I am listening to you, seeking to understand what excites you. I am hoping this will inspire you to listen to me – which monologues will turn into dialogues.
- Mutual respect – Implicitly, in a conversation I am conveying the message – I honor you, your interests, your excitement. In effect, my questions, my listening, my time endows dignity on my conversation partners.

Conversations may be a proving ground for cultivation of Godliness.

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