

Editor's note

We are commencing publication of a new scientific journal 'Family Forum' – Annuals of the Institute of Family Studies of the Faculty of Theology of Opole University with the first issue being handed over to the readers. The 'forum' in the title has been chosen as a name of the journal meaning double lexical denotation of the concept: a central point, a place on the intersection of the main communication arteries as well as the jury appropriate for the judicial decision. For we intend to create a platform to exchange views on crucial issues concerning family, not ignoring controversial or difficult matters. In these columns we would like to begin a debate on the most important questions regarding family, namely those at the intersection of the main ideas and approaches, subjecting it to the appropriate criticism of the authors as well as the readers of the periodical.

Publication of the journal starts rather symbolically in the year of enrolling the 'family studies' as a scientific discipline in the humanities. Undertaking the publishing initiative, we do hope to join the substantial discussion on the shape of the young discipline, and to cooperate to realize the humanistic ideal of the common care of all the sciences for the integral good of the basic environment of human life, which is family.

Since the subject of the 'Family Forum' will concern the issues of widely understood matters of the family, the journal is programmatically open to the interdisciplinary approach and integral to the maximum, for these are the characteristic markers of the family itself as well as of the problems of this range. Hence, the columns of the journal are open to all for whom the family and the problems it faces are allied, and who are ready to undertake new challenges faced by the family. We are aware that various scientific and social milieus and contexts of family functioning in different countries factually modify the approach to the discussed issues, hence we assume to publish papers by authors from different countries and fields substantially connected by the family. An abstract and keywords in English preceding every paper will facilitate the international exchange of thought.

The preview of the journal theme in the graphic layout that will be present on the cover of every consecutive issue is worthy noticing. The first one consists in the arrangement of strings of different colors intertwined as it is the case in the family with all the wealth of the ties of different personalities. The strings can also tie knots, very often difficult to disentangle – this is

the reference to the substantial 'problems' of the journal. And the first two volumes of the 'Family Forum' concern the diagnosis of the problems of the contemporary family, the diagnosis formulated from different national, disciplinary and personal experience perspectives of the authors published in the journal. Besides the papers on the topic, the following volumes will include monographs regarding other than the title questions of the range of the problems of family (Varia on family), as well as reports on important scientific events and reviews of books concerning the family.

Thanking all those who contributed to the establishment of the journal, we invite to publish in its columns. We wish the readers fruitful reading and every family a successful fight for good and overcoming the problems it faces.

Piotr Morciniec
the chief editor of 'Family Forum'