

Editorial

The first issue of the biannual “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” of the year 2020 has been published during exceptional circumstances due to the widespread affects of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has paralyzed the life and activity of millions of people all over the world in different fields of activity, and in the academic field too. Despite the inconvenience, the disruption and the limits the publication of the next issues of the journal became possible largely because of the electronic handling of the process of the submission of articles, reviewing and composition of texts.

The presented issue opens with an article which is a result of research in the exegesis of the New Testament. The article is based on the analysis of three verses (Matt 1:18-20; Luke 1:35), which deal with the role of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus through Mary.

The next two articles belong to moral theology. The first of them is from the field of syneidesiology and concerns the problem of the ambiguity of the term of conscience in moral theological discourse. The second paper is from bioethics and talks about the project of boundless responsibility towards all living beings elaborated by Albert Schweitzer and proposes it as stimulation for the search for global ethics today.

The following two articles present the results of research in the field of pastoral theology. The first of them presents the treatment of the moral requirements of sacramental marriages surveyed using the questionnaire method among couples in the Diocese of Goroka in Papua New Guinea. The other article is a result of empirical research among priests of the Archdiocese of Przemyśl and is concerned with the problem of the willingness of pastors to accompany spouses in

their faith development, and shows the need for the permanent formation of the presbyters.

The next article presents research in the field of the theology of spirituality. This paper depicts the phenomenon of stigmas of Elia Cataldo who carries the signs of our Lord's Passion on his own body and is involved in evangelistic works. The author presents his life in the context of fulfilling the charisma of "being a stigmatic".

The article on the contemporary youth, their opinions and confessed values is from the field of Christian pedagogics. The author speaks about the problem of the development of the hierarchy of values and the question of introducing a young person to the world of values.

The second part of the journal is dedicated to historical questions and contains five articles. The article which is most chronologically distanced presents a document of the bishop of Wrocław, Przeclaw of Pogarell and is concerned with the Dominican nuns Monastery in Racibórz, which was issued on 9 February 1370 in Otmuchów. In this document the bishop confirms the diploma to Prince of Opawa-Racibórz John I of 12 November 1368.

The next article presents the activity in Opole Silesia of Moritz Brosig (1815–1887), who was a musician, composer and pipe organ supervisor. The author in his analysis bases his article on the collection of opinions about organs that were arranged by Borsig between the years 1871–1884, and conserved in the State Archives of Opole. The article focuses mainly on sound issues and lists many names of the then organ building companies.

The following two articles are dedicated to Silesian priests who were active in the first half of 20th Century: Karol Koziółek (1856–1938) and God's servant Jan Macha (1914–1942). Karol Koziółek was a parish priest in Grabin near Prudnik, and was one of the head activists of the Polish national movement in Opole Silesia. On the basis of a hitherto non-published document the Author presents his activity in defense of the Polish language in the parishes of Opole Silesia in the interwar period and his activity during parliamentary elections in the years 1930-1932. The paper dedicated to the martyr of the Second World War presents the scenes and stages (diocesan and roman) of the process of beatification of Jan Macha, priest of the diocese of Katowice, who was involved in the beneficent activity during the occupation. Focusing on following the procedures established by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in a consistent and faithful way, the Author does not avoid mentioning the difficult moments of the process of the next in the near future blessed person of the Diocese of Katowice.

The last paper analyses the current writing output of Father Aleksander Sitnik OFM, which was published in the years 2006–2019. In his works, he deals with

issues concerning the broadly understood history of the Bernardine provinces of the Order of Friars Minor in Poland, starting from 1453. The author conducts scientific research on the border of biography, prosopography and source editing.

The column *Reviews – Materials – Reports* contains four texts. The first of them is a Polish translation of the Latin treatise *De verbo Dei* of Hugh from Saint Viktor. The second paper is dedicated to the old Polish life of Blessed Helen of Hungary OP (1200–1240). Moreover, published in this column are two reviews of books on the history of the Church. The first concerns the book of A. Weiss on visitations acts in the parish of Wolsztyn in the year 1777 and the second concerns the monography of H. Olszar on persons originating and performing in the community of Gorzyce in Upper Silesia.

