

## Editorial

The first issue of the biannual “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia”, which is published in the year of the beatification of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, opens with an article relating to the teachings of the Primat of the Millennium. The author shows the Christian tradition of faith inscribed to the contemporary (post)modern cultural reality from a personalistic perspective as elaborated by Wyszyński. An analysis of contemporary culture from the perspective of Primate Wyszyński’s vision of engagement of Christians in culture expresses this question in categories of man’s vocation, in which creative activity in relation to culture should be seen as a kind of realization of the whole personality in the temporal and supernatural dimension.

The next two articles concern questions from the field of research in contemporary Bible sciences. The first of them is concerned with the transmission of the narrative of the scripture for young people and the challenges with which teachers and schools are confronted with. The author demonstrates the origin of these challenges and the additional conditions which became more problematic due to the crisis induced by the coronavirus pandemic and presents a proposal which makes it possible for teachers to be greatly efficient in order to transfer the Bible narrative to young people. The second paper from the Bible sciences is a detailed exegesis of text concerning the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane (Math 26:36-46; Marc 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46), which is the paradigm of the give up to the will of the Father. The author discusses specific elements of particular versions of synoptical Gospels and quotes an interpretation in the primary Church and points towards giving up to the will of the Father as a point of reference to all circumstances in Christian life.

The issues in the next two articles addresses papal teaching. The first of them presents the thought of Joseph Ratzinger about the Eucharist which is at the core

of the Church and a higher expression of devotion. The author underlines the postulates of the council in regards to the renewing of the liturgy of the Eucharist which is explicitly present in the theology of Joseph Ratzinger and includes a concrete proposition of the understanding of the Church and the Eucharist as a gift. The second article is a commentary about papal teaching and presents some of the keynotes of Pope Francis on the fraternity included in the encyclical letter *Fratelli tutti*. The author discusses the characteristics of the fraternity which include the attitude towards sensitivity, mindfulness and solidarity and emphasizes the specific details of the teachings of Francis on fraternity which is the imitation of the merciful Samaritan.

The paper from the sociology of religion is a critical look on the contemporary Catholic Church in Poland. The author, leaning on academic publications and press papers attempts a critical evaluation of the character of Polish Catholicism and indicates a historical conditioning for this state of affairs.

Articles from the field of the history of the Church opens with a paper dedicated to the life of the saintly Eufemia of the Piast OP published in Vilnius, in 1760 in a collection of the life of Dominican saints. The author shows the context of the printing of this work, its history and analyses it presenting interesting threads about the Dominican nun from Racibórz.

The next paper is an important voice in the discussion about the theme of how the tendentious interpretation of history verbally transferred can influence the shaping of misunderstanding and the intentional falsification of cultural memory. The author, using examples shows the way in which history when orally transmitted can influence a generation of misunderstanding and how misunderstanding can influence common knowledge about society and finally the culture of memory.

The next two articles belong to the field of biographical research. The first of them presents biographical information concerning Ignacy Dziadek – mayor of Mionow near Głogówek, a popular judge, an author of Polish prayer books and religious books, who in 1848 became a member of the Prussian National Assembly (*Landtag*). The author characterizes the literary heritage of his relative, I. Dziadek, and presents him based on preserved familiar memories. The second article describes a recondite researcher of the history of Silesia – the reverend Karl Urban, whose 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death will be in 2023. The author presents the initial results of his research on Urban, of which the goal is a monography about the forgotten researcher of local history on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

The theme of the next article is a study of the illness of the saintly Sister Helena Hoffmann, who was called by her doctors “Bride of the cross”, conscious

and healthy of the soul. The author analyses archives and publications and characterizes the course of the disease of Helena Hofmann, presents her doctors from the years 1928–1936 and the sisters of Mary Immaculate who assisted her in her illness.

The last historical paper is dedicated to the chapels and roadside shrines found nestled in the Polish landscape and the research trends which in Polish historiography began at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The author shows the historiography of chapels and roadside shrines and explains four research trends in relation to the exploration.

The column *Reviews – Materials – Reports* contains five texts. The first two texts are reviews of books. The first of them concerns the publication from the theology of liturgy written by Józef Franik and the second is dedicated to the monography written by Adam Dziurok and Bogusław Tracz from the Institute of National Memory in Katowice concerning the famous events in Gliwice in 1960. The next text presents the pre-war documentation concerning the organs in the church of St. Boniface in Zgorzelec. The rubric *Materials* contains an interview with reverend Hubert Mikołajec – a retired parish priest in Zabelków in the diocese of Opole. The last text of the current issue is a report on the activity of the Diocesan Institute of the Ecclesial Music in Opole in the school year 2019/2020.

