

## Editorial

The first two articles published in the second issue of the biannual “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” from 2023 present results of research conducted in the field of exegesis of the Bible and biblical theology.

The first of the presented papers talks about the meaning of the quotation of Psalm 78:2 in the Gospel of Matthew in the context of Jesus’ deeds and teaching and his identity as a Son of God. The content of this article is a polemic with the hitherto most exhausting interpretation of this text by Dutch theologian, Maarten J.J. Menken (1948–2016).

The subject of the second paper in biblical theology is a fragment of the Gospel of Mark containing the parable about old waterskins and young wine (Mk 2: 18–22), interpreted from the perspective of the synodality of the Church. The author, referring to the statement of Pope Francis, makes a symbolic reading of the words of Jesus and presents the way in which discovering the synodality of the Church is an arriving to the newness of the Gospel and underlines the need of flexibility of minds and openness to change.

The next four articles in the presented issue present results of research in the field of moral theology and bioethics.

The first paper in theological ethics concerns the ethics of war and peace from the perspective of the war in Ukraine and the right of this country to self-defense. The author justifies the position regarding the moral fairness of the military intervention, so-called humanitarian intervention.

The next article is a presentation of models and positions in the field of ethics of natural environment. The author presents the foundation of anthropocentrism, biocentrism and ecocentrism, which are different worldviews and ethical models.

The four principles of medical ethics (no harm, giving aid and care, respect of autonomy and justice) and the value of proportionality are the subject of the next article in bioethics. The author makes an attempt to achieve the principle of proportionality regarding the main code(s) in medical and nursing practice.

The subject of the next article in the field of bioethics is the problem of the inheritance of genetic disorder. The author, referring to the principle of proportionality, justifies, that avoidance of occurrence of genetic disease is possible in the mor-

ally accepted way, which is the intervention in the germline, and not the selection nor modification of embryos during *in vitro*. Content of this article is controversial from the perspective of the teaching of the Catholic Church on methods of artificial fertilization.

The historical part of this issue opens with a text, in which the author presents the question of the second foundation of the Templar Order in Silesia. The text contains information about the hypothetical presence of this order in Opole Silesia and about localization of the second destroyed tower, about which the master of the French Templars, Ponces de Aubon wrote in the letter to the French King Ludwig IX.

The next article presents the Superior of the Abbey of the convent of the Regular Canons in Żagań, Paul II Lembergk from Żary. Presenting the figure of the Abbey Superior the author shows the impact, which in Silesia held Protestant ideas, as well as amongst the local people as among the clergy.

The description of the copperplate by Georg Lichtensteger, presented on the tombstone of princess Eufemia (Ofka) – prioress of the Dominican monastery in Racibórz, is the subject of the next article. In 1738 this tombstone was basically rebuilt due to the developing devotion of Eufemia and the start of efforts by the ecclesial to approve of it.

The next three articles concern the newest history of the Church.

The first of them is a continuation of the first published part, which is a description of events during the first world war, saved in the chronicle written by rev. Andrzej Witulski, Catholic parish priest in Wójcin in the district of Wieluń. The author draws a psychological image of residents, narrates about the social and political atmosphere and religious attitude, which helped them efficiently struggle with the war adversity.

The subject of the next article is the figure of Adalbert (Franz) Kurzeja OSB (1920–2016), who was the Superior of Benedictine Abbey Maria Laach in Germany and one of the representatives of post-conciliar liturgical renovations in the Catholic Church. The author describes the main facts of the life of the Superior from Maria Laach, deriving from Kuźnia Raciborska in Upper Silesia.

The last academic article in this issue is a presentation of events connected to the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in Jasna Góra on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The article presents an account of the preparation of this visit and its course.

The part *Reviews – Materials – Reports* of presenting issue contains two reviews and two reports. The first text is a review of a book *Christliche Beziehungsethik. Historische Entwicklungen – Biblische Grundalgen – Gegenwärtige Perspektiven / Christian ethics of Relationships: Historical Developments – Biblical Founda-*

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*tion – Present Perspectives* (Herder 2023) by Martin M. Lintner on the Christian sexual ethics. The next text is a review of the book *Kwiaty pośród bomb. Dziennik zakrystianki katedralnej / Flowers Among the Pipes: Diary of the Cathedral Sacristan* (TUM 2022), which is a chronicle record of events during the second world war and the post-war years by Hilelita Troska SSn, who has been for 30 years sacristan at the cathedral of Wrocław. At the end of this issue were published two reports. The first text is a report of the international conference on transsexuality, which was organized by association *Bioethicists of Central Europe* (BCE) in Vienna in October 2023. The last text of this issue is a report about the activity of the Diocesan Institute of Church Music in Opole in the school year 2022/2023.

