

Editorial

The first issue of the semi-annual journal “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” of 2024 opens with an article constituting the second part of the text on anthropocentrism, biocentrism and ecocentrism – models of positions in the field of environmental ethics. The article is an analysis of the Church’s teaching documents on environmental ethics and a critical presentation of the positions they contain.

The next article is an attempt to present an ethic of accompaniment in dying that has been proposed in relation to the current state of the Church. Faced with the fact that the previous form of the Church is “dying”, the authors, from the perspective of the experience of the Church in Germany, propose a spiritual renewal and a re-discovery of its theological meaning that goes beyond the “trench warfare” to an ethics of vulnerability.

The subject of the next article is the futuristic possibility of immortality – mind transfer – which has to do with neuroscience, computer science, cognitive research, artificial intelligence and philosophy. Based on an analysis of a thought experiment and a study of the differences between a person and a copy of a person, the author proves that the use of mind transfer to ensure or prolong life is not possible with the current level of knowledge and technology.

The next article presents the meaning of the maxim *lex orandi – lex credendi* using the example of the renewal of the Good Friday Universal Prayer in 1965. The author explains the relationship that exists between the object of faith and its expression; between theology and liturgy.

A text from the area of exegesis analyses, based on the method of Semitic Biblical Rhetoric, the passage Ezek 33:21-33. Based on a two-step analysis of the text, the author presents conclusions concerning the witness of Christians to God as the Giver of life in the modern world.

An article from the area of canon law presents and analyses offences punishable by criminal loss of clerical status. Based on the Code of Canon Law and the apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei* of Pope Francis, the author explains the concept of crime in canon law and discusses the various offences.

The first constitutions of the nuns of the Order of St Mary Magdalene of Penance is the subject of an article from the area of Church history. The author presents

the Polish translation of the *Rule of Saint Sixtus*, stored in the State Archives in Wrocław. This text is shown as a common heritage of the Magdalenes and Dominican nuns.

The next article from the history of the Church discusses the issue of the influence of imperial policy on the functioning of the Catholic Church in the Austrian Habsburg state in the years 1526–1918. The author presents the elements of policy towards the Catholic Church, taking into account the transformations conditioned by historical events, progress in science, political transformations and territorial changes.

An attempt to detail in a chronological and problematic arrangement the main areas of activity of the student scientific movement of pedagogues in the period of existence of the Powstańców Śląskich Higher School of Pedagogy in Opole (1954–1994) is the matter of the next article. The author characterizes the genesis and development of the student scientific movement in Poland and the functioning conditions of the pedagogical scientific circles in the Opole university.

Research from the field of biography is presented in the next article. The author discusses the various stages of life, as well as the sacramental ministry and social activity of Reverend Tadeusz Pieczko (1936–1997), a priest of the Diocese of Legnica, showing him as a faithful servant of the Vineyard of the Lord.

The subject of the last research article is the figure of Abbot Adalbert Franz Kurzeja OSB (1920–2016). The author presents aspects of the biography and activities of the monk from Maria Laach concerning his contribution to the process of Polish-German reconciliation.

The *Reviews – Resources – Reports* section contains several texts. The first is a review of a book by the German theologian Achim Buckenmaier on the contemporary theology of the ministry of priesthood. Two further reviews deal with books on Church history. The first concerns a biography of Reverend Vinzenz Brauner (1877–1943), pastor and mayor of the town of Zuckmantel (Zlaté Hory) in the interwar period, by Reverend Jan Larisch. The second review is a monograph about the village and parish of Starokrzepice, by Reverend Michał Widera. The next text is a report on the activities of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole in the academic year 2022/2023. The last text of the presented biannual is a report on the inauguration of the academic year 2023/2024 at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole.