

Editorial

The second issue of the semi-annual journal “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” of 2024 opens with a text from the field of environmental ethics on climate change and its consequences. The authors present the details of climate change and give some theological suggestions for the necessary changes to reverse and heal the current climate situation.

An article from the field of pastoral theology presents preliminary insights into the issue of conscience in this branch of theology. The author postulates a reference to a “theology of the people”, which can be helpful in the practice of concrete decisions of conscience and thus in overcoming their opposition to the official positions of Church teaching.

The article from the area of biblical exegesis is a literary and exegetical-theological analysis concerning the motif of the scarlet mantle and the crown of thorns in the passage Mt 27:27-31. The article explains the analogy with the references to this theme in the *Prison Notes* of Blessed Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.

An article from the area of liturgical sciences explains the problem of the relationship between the office of catechist and the former ordination of the lower exorcist. The article discusses aspects of the history of the ministry of the exorcist, as well as the problem of the action of the laity in the new ministry of the Church, and on this basis explains the essence of the relationship between the two ministries and the nature of liturgical ministries.

The subject of the article on the theology of spirituality is prayers from the early Celtic period, which contain numerous metaphors. The author analyses selected Celtic prayers and, on this basis, presents the issue of praise of the Creator and praise of creation.

The text from the field of research on Mariavites is a methodological analysis of Jerzy Pietrkiewicz’s book *The Third Adam. The Story of the Mariavites*, which is a Polish adaptation of the English version from 1975. Using the historical-comparative method, the author discusses the problem of the hermeneutics of the text and explains the problem of the recognition of the discussed work as scientific in academic and ecumenical circles and as a basis for the study of Mariavite theology.

The historical part of the journal opens with the first part of the article on the Dominican nunnery in Buda (1252–1637). The author writes about the origins of the monastic foundation, which benefited from papal protection, the patronage of Hungarian kings and the support of wealthy families. For centuries, the monastery was regarded as the finest in Hungary, and the buildings erected were described as pearls of sacred architecture. It was also an important shrine and place of pilgrimage to the tomb of St Margaret of Hungary (1242–1270).

The following text is devoted to monastic themes, presenting notices of deaths of Dominican nuns of Racibórz (from 1740 and 1743), which have been preserved in the collection of archival materials of the Dominican monastery in Znojmo in Bohemia. Reading the documents in question allows one to draw a picture of monastic piety at the end of Habsburg times in Silesia.

The subject of the following text is the cult of St Josaphat Kuncewicz (1580–1623), which spread mainly after his canonization in 1867. The author analyzes books and brochures stored in Polish repositories which appeared in Poland and Europe in the 19th century and justifies that they confirm not only the cult of the saint as a patron of the union, but also as an advocate of the resurrection of independent Poland and Lithuania and the formation of new nation states on the map of Europe at the time: Ukraine and Belarus, in close alliance with their western and northern neighbors.

Surviving the 100th anniversary of the new circularity of the Catholic Church in Poland, which took place in 1925, the author of the following article describes the participation of the bishop of the Diocese of Kujawy and Kalisz, Stanisław Zdzitowiecki (1854–1927), in the creation of the Diocese of Częstochowa. The text notes that the proposal to create a new diocese in the spiritual capital of Poland enjoyed the support of the entire episcopate, and its creation was approved in 1925 in the concordat concluded between the Holy See and the Second Republic and in the bull of Pope Pius XI *Vixdum Poloniae unitas*.

The last academic article is on the borderline between church history and church art history. The text concerns St Dominic's Church in Turobin, which is a significant example of Renaissance sacral architecture in the Lublin region and an important monument on the present-day map of Poland.

The section *Reviews – Materials – Reports* contains several texts. The first is a review of a book on the contexts of the life and martyrdom of Blessed Jozef Cebula OMI (1902–1941), edited by Paulina Jabłńska in 2024. Another review is an extensive text discussing Vaclav Havel's notes from April 1985 outlining his views at the time on issues of war and peace. Another review is about the autobiography of Rev. Paweł Pyrchała (1932–2023), director of the pastoral departments of the

Opole and Gliwice dioceses, and also an advocate of Polish-German reconciliation, which is a contribution to understanding the situation of the Catholic Church in Germany and Poland, and especially in Silesia, in the 20th century. The last two text in this issue of the biannual are reports; the first one talks about a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Association of “Bioethicists in Central Europe” on Artificial Intelligence (Vienna, 24 X 2024), and the second one presents the activities of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole in the academic year 2023/2024.

