

Editorial

The second issue of the biannual “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” from 2025 opens with a text that was written on the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. The article analyzes the reception of the Second Vatican Council in India, particularly through the prism of dialogue as a fundamental ecclesial mission. The author justifies that the Second Vatican Council’s recognition of religious pluralism and its call to build community among all humanity and constitutes the foundation for dialogical engagement in India against the background of the challenges of that society. The article confirms that authentic dialogue strengthens Christian witness and promotes human freedom, unity, and peace in India.

In 2025, the 30th anniversary of the publication of St. John Paul II’s encyclical *Evangelium vitae* fell, which is an important document entirely devoted to the issue of the value and respect for human life in the context of progress in medicine. The article presents the contribution of *Evangelium vitae* to the development of moral teaching, which is justified on the basis of selected examples of positions contained in the papal document: towards the death penalty, on the issue of euthanasia, towards the practice of transplants, and in the area of political ethics.

The subject of the next article is the issue of intercultural pastoral care for Catholic migrant couples and intercultural couples in Europe. The article presents four studies concerning pastoral accompaniment and integration processes of Catholic migrant and intercultural couples living in the Netherlands. The article ends with an indication of possibilities for improving intercultural pastoral care and a comparison with the Polish context.

The article from the field of biblical exegesis explains the issue of reconciliation, which is the basis of dialogue in the Gospel of Matthew. The author presents an exegetical and theological analysis of Mt 5:23-24, showing that Matthew places reconciliation at the center of Christian discipleship, and justifies that it constitutes the foundation of authentic worship, shapes community life, and reflects the merciful character of the Father revealed in Emmanuel.

Historical-critical exegesis is also the starting point for the text on the Tower of Babel as an archetype of transcending the boundaries of the human condition. The author has integrated the biblical narrative with theological, philosophical perspectives, and historical examples of utopian projects. The text justifies the thesis that ignoring the ontological boundaries of human nature leads to social chaos and postulates pluralism, dialogue, and humility as a counteraction to utopian tendencies.

The article from the field of the history of the theology of spirituality analyzes the concept of the spiritual direction of Pierre de Bérulle (1575–1629) through the analysis of the work *Memorial* (1625), a key text addressed to the superiors of the French Oratory. The author, placing the text in the context of Church reform in the 17th century, emphasizes the decisive influence of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite on Bérulle's theology concerning mediation, hierarchy, and holiness, and presents a coherent synthesis of spiritual direction, integrating Christology, Trinitarian theology, and ecclesiology, which played a key role in the development of the French School of Spirituality.

The article from the field of Church history presents the issue of the sources of funding for the charitable activities of the hospital provostship of the abbey of canons regularly from Żagań up to the beginning of the 16th century. The author, based on source analysis, proves that various ways of obtaining funds for financing monastic activities, including through donations, abbot support, or independent purchases, were deliberate actions with features of planning and purposeful diversification of sources and types of maintenance.

The subject of the next historical article is the history of the cult of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Opole (*Mater Admirabilis*), in connection with the 100th anniversary celebrated in 2025 of the Jesuits' return to Opole, who in 1702 brought to this Piast town the image of Our Lady of Piekary. The author recalls these events and describes the efforts for the coronation of the image and the history of the Opole convent until its suppression, as well as the transfer of the image to the Church of the Holy Cross and its most recent history.

The next historical article presents the territorial organization of the Kujawy-Kalisz diocese in the years 1818–1850. The author presents the establishment of the diocese, which consisted of parishes of the former Gniezno archdiocese and the Kujawy-Pomeranian diocese. The text discusses individual archdeaconates and officialates, the new division in 1825, and deaneries which in 1822 covered 363 parishes, and 339 independent sites in 1850, as well as smaller administrative units (filial churches, chapels, and prebends).

In 2025, the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Częstochowa diocese was celebrated, which in 1992 was established as an archdiocese. The outline of the history of this territorial unit of the Catholic Church is presented in the next text. The author, against the background of important historical events and political and social changes, presents important aspects of the church life of the Częstochowa archdiocese in the years 1925–2025.

The first bishop of the newly established Częstochowa diocese in 1925 was Fr. Dr. Teodor Kubina (1880–1951), who was a pro-Polish activist during the Silesian uprisings and the plebiscite on Upper Silesia. The article presents the first years of Bishop Kubina's ministry in Częstochowa from the perspective of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Honorate Sisters) and his contribution to the integration of part of Upper Silesia with the Republic of Poland and activities related to the Jasna Góra sanctuary of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

The *Reviews – Materials – Reports* rubric contains several texts. The first of them is a review of the book by Andrzej Szczepaniak entitled *Gość Niedzielny wobec systemów totalitarnych w latach 1923–1939*, published in 2022 in Katowice by the *Fundacja Centrum nad Historią Kościoła im. prof. W. Myszora*, *Instytut Gość Media*, and *Księgarnia św. Jacka*. The next text is a report from the conference *The Human Person and Their AI*, organized by the association Bioethicists in Central Europe (BCE), in cooperation with the Faculty of Theology of the University of Ljubljana and the Centre for Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence and Ethics of New Technologies, which took place on October 24–25, 2025, in Ljubljana. The last text of the presented issue of the biannual is a report on the activities of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole in the 2024/2025 academic year.

