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Editorial

The first issue of the biannual journal "Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia" from 2026 opens with a text offering a critical reading of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical on the ethics of artificial intelligence, *Magnifica Humanitas*, which provides a timely response to the threat that artificial intelligence poses to human dignity and the common good, as well as a significant update to Catholic social teaching in the face of this challenge. The authors highlight the inconsistency between Catholic social and sexual teaching on human dignity, as evident in the encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, and put forward proposals aimed at resolving this inconsistency.

The next article offers an interpretation of the integral ecology of the encyclical *Laudato si'* in the context of the proliferation of artificial intelligence. Starting from the relational core of the concept of ecology, the text demonstrates that the transformation of humanity's relational environment by AI is an ecological issue in the strict sense. The author adopts the reciprocity of relationships, understood in relation to the person as *imago Dei*, as the criterion for assessment, and proposes an ecological conversion centered on relationships as the response.

In 2021, the German Bishops Conference published an ecological document on biodiversity titled *Vom Wert der Vielfalt – Biodiversität als Bewährungsprobe der Schöpfungsverantwortung*, which calls for the protection of creation in the spirit of Pope Francis's "green encyclical", *Laudato si'*. The author introduces the content of this document to the Polish reader and, against the backdrop of the dramatic extinction of certain species, highlights the need for lifestyle changes, agricultural reform, and the recognition of the intrinsic value – rather than merely the utility – of other living beings.

The subject of the next text is an attempt to respond to the growing crisis of credibility surrounding the doctrine of salvation in a world marked by suffering, injustice and violence, based on an analysis of Pope Benedict XVI's books *Jesus of Nazareth*. The author outlines the premises of the Pope's soteriological concept, presents its internal connections, and carries out a critical assessment of its

relevance and usefulness in today's reality, and identified areas requiring further clarification.

The issue of responsible parenthood in the light of the so-called *Kraków Mek morandum*, drawn up by theologians associated with Karol Wojtyła in response to draft encyclicals on birth control, is analyzed in another article. The text presents the philosophical and theological arguments of this document, relating to the dignity of the human person, natural law, conjugal love, the transmission of life, and the moral distinction between contraception and natural family planning. The author presents the document as a significant stage in the personalist defense of Catholic teaching on marriage and fertility.

The next text, drawn from the field of dogmatic theology, offers a systematic reflection on the central formula of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy ("Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Son") in the light of the classical Trinitarian, Christological and soteriological doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. The author has analyzed the literal semantic structure of the above formula in relation to the precise dogmatic language of the Nicene-Chalcedonian tradition and has highlighted the tensions it may generate with regard to the classical distinctions concerning the unity of the divine essence (*homoousios*), the hypostatic union and the principle of *secundum humanitatem – virtute divinitatis*. The article proposes a hermeneutical model of a personalist, economic and synecdochical nature, which allows the disputed formulations to be interpreted in accordance with orthodoxy.

One other text in the field of dogmatic theology is an analysis of the theology of Gregory Palamas and focuses on the experience of light as a dogmatic argument. Drawing primarily on the *Triads* (I–II), polemical writings and the doctrine of deification, the author demonstrates that, in the Palamasian perspective, experience does not play a secondary role to doctrine nor does it constitute a private mystical phenomenon but is a normative element of theological knowledge. The text emphasizes the importance of precise dogmatic articulation and highlights the relevance of Palamas's thought for contemporary dogmatic reflection on the relationship between experience, doctrine and the knowledge of God.

The latest theological text presents an analysis of the selection of Mass readings contained in the *Roman Missal* published by Pope John XXIII in 1962. Through an analysis of the biblical passages contained in the Mass formularies for the liturgical year, for the feasts of the saints, and for the common Masses for the saints, votive Masses and Masses for the dead, the author highlights the presence of specific, carefully selected passages from Sacred Scripture and explains their theological significance within the context of the respective liturgy. The text provides a basis

for understanding the call of the Second Vatican Council for a more abundant offering of the Word of God to the faithful.

Among the texts on the history of the Church is the first part of an outline of the history of women's religious convents in Hungary (10th–21st centuries). The author discusses the historical development of women's monasteries and highlights the factors that influenced the establishment, development, revival and closure of these institutions. The text contributes to an understanding of the current state of women's religious life in Hungary.

This article is a continuation of the contribution to the biography of Bishop Teodor Kubina, which appeared in the previous issue of the journal. Presenting the figure of the bishop from the perspective of the diocesan clergy, nuns and laypeople, the author emphasizes that, throughout his years of ministry, he familiarized himself with the specific character of the new diocese, whilst at the same time never ceasing to take pride in his Silesian origins and his understanding of the Church.

The subject of the next article is a description of the diocesan preparations and the course of Pope Francis's pilgrimage to the Jasna Góra Shrine on 28 July 2016. Drawing on documentation from the Metropolitan Curia in Częstochowa, materials from the organizing committees and the teachings of the Bishop of Rome, the author discusses the logistical aspects of the event, the unique nature of the Pope's homily, and traces the evolution of the Pope's apostolic journeys to Częstochowa against the backdrop of political and socio-political changes.

The subject of the final academic article in this issue of the journal is the Roman phase of the beatification process. The author explains that this is not merely a matter of formally verifying the collected documents, but rather a communal act of the Church which examines whether holiness was indeed manifested in the candidate's life as a sign of the working of grace. The text explores the significance of the *Positio Causae* and the procedures that ultimately lead to the Pope's decision to raise the candidate to the honors of the altars.

The *Reviews – Resources – Reports* section opens with a review of the book *Geschichte der christlichen Ethik* by Sigrid Müller and Kerstin Schlögl-Flierl, published by Herder in 2026. The second review presents the book *100 Pearls of the Archdiocese of Katowice*, edited by Wojciech Schäffer and published by the Gość Media Institute – St. Jack's Bookshop in Katowice in 2025. The next review presents a book that is a biographical monograph dedicated to Fr. Prof. Jan Związek (1937–2020). The biographical piece is a tribute to Fr. Johannes Zlotos (1936–2016), a lecturer at the Higher Theological Seminary of Opole Silesia in Nysa–Opole. The next text highlights current initiatives to support the poor, using the ex-

ample of the ministry carried out by ‘Caritas’ of the Diocese of Opole. At the end of the issue, reports from academic conferences are published. The first of these covers the ecumenical conference *Ankommen der Flüchtlinge und Vertriebenen 1946 – Schlesische Erfahrungen zwischen Verlust, Glauben und Neubeginn – Wie haben sie es geschafft?*, which took place from 31 January to 1 February 2026 in Mainz. The next report covers the *Green Theology and Philosophy* panel, held from May 28 to 30, 2026, as part of the 7th International EU Green Week conference in Lublin. Three subsequent academic events held in June 2026 are also reported on: a conference marking the 75th anniversary of the death of Monsignor Bolesław Wróblewski (held on June 12, 2026, in Częstochowa); an academic conference titled *The Church as an Initiator of Social and Cultural Changes in Silesia Throughout the Centuries* (held on June 16, 2026, at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole); and an academic conference titled *Francis: The Topography of an Eight-Century Presence in Culture* (held on June 18, 2026, at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole).