

Editorial

The journal “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” has been in publication since 1968. This periodical was established with the intention of mobilizing the local academic community to conduct scientific research and to publish its results in a time when it was not easy to do so for various reasons. The first volumes of this journal were published as the “Theological Yearbook of Opole Silesia”. The periodical was published irregularly due to publishing restrictions and censorship by the government of that time. Consequently, the name of the journal was changed and since 1973 it has been published as “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia”. The periodical was originally published by the Seminary of Opole Silesia in Nysa but since 1994 due to the founding of Faculty of Theology at the University of Opole the publication has been associated with this academic institution.

So far there have been 35 volumes of the journal published. This includes those journals which were printed irregularly and those printed and published consistently every year since 1995. The editorial staff have been encouraged to change the frequency of publishing this periodical due to scientific requirements, interests of authors and readers, practical reasons and contemporary editorial opportunities. Therefore, “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” will actually be published twice a year. There will also be some slight change to the graphic design of the journal. At the same time the scientific character of this periodical will be maintained. This guarantees, amongst other things, the peer-review procedure (a double blind review) for all scientific articles. Even though the name of the journal suggests studies of Opole Silesia the periodical is only published in Opole Silesia. Therefore, it is not the intention to restrict the provenance of the authors nor the topics of published papers to be just concerned with the local community and regional issues. Both the editorial board of the periodical, the team of reviewers and the authors and their studies guarantees an inter-local and an international character to this journal. This is the fruit of and confirmation of multiple scientific contacts of the academic world from Opole Silesia with others academic centres. The publication is especially connected to the Faculty of Theology at the University of Opole but co-operates with others academic centres in Poland and abroad.

The name of the journal clearly indicates the thematic profile of the scientific papers published in this bi-annual. The subject matter in principle is concerned with articles from different bodies of systematic and practical theology and historical publications, mainly concerning the history of the Church, Christianity and religiosity. Nonetheless the journal is guided towards being a platform, in which papers will be published from disciplines related to and close to theology and history, especially Christian philosophy, Canon law, sciences of religion, psychology and the sociology of religion, family sciences, Christian arts sciences and culture sciences, especially the culture and the history of borderland. The bi-annual will publish studies from different scientific disciplines but, will not rule out thematic issues which may be dedicated to one clearly specified issue.

The present issue of the 36th bi-annual "Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia" contains 12 articles by authors connected by different academic communities in Poland and abroad.

The focus of the articles herein, are of a strictly theological character. They are articles concerned with dogmatics, fundamental theology and moral theology. The first paper is concerned with Christology, the author presents a historical depiction of the disputes about the statements of the Chalcedon Council and the teachings about the nature of Christ. The next paper concerns the process of reconciliation between the Polish and German nations which was initiated with the exchanging of letters between Polish and German bishops, and presents the foundations of the theology of reconciliation on the basis of ecclesial documents concerning the relations between both countries. One of the classical problems in philosophy and theology is the rationalisation of suffering and evil which is the focus of the next article. The author in his paper presents the accepted models of understanding of this problem and makes their theological interpretation. The next two papers are questions of bioethics and social ethics. The first of them concerns the ethical aspects of discussions concerning assisted suicide. The second one analyzes the basis of the encyclical letter by Pope Francis *Laudato si'* and the principles of social life from the perspective of contemporary ecological threats.

Among the articles which focus on historical aspects, is a paper in which the author presents the Syrian monasteries and their educational functions for the Church in the East over a long stretch of history. Hagiographical problems are present in the next texts. The first of which presents the mission of Saint Ansgar and his importance for the evangelisation of North Europe and the second one concerns the rehabilitation process of Saint Joanne d'Arc and shows the machinery and the mistrials by the activities of the Inquisition in the fifteenth century. The next two historical articles are studies about the history of Silesia. The first of them concerns the pro-

cess of the founding of the Dominicans in Racibórz and the second one is about the history of the Monastery of Augustinian-hermits in Grodków.

The Christian pedagogic looks still for inspirations and assumptions. One of them is the work *De catechizandis rudibus* written by Saint Augustine. The presence of the theoretical and meta-theoretical guidelines in this work and their actuality for contemporary education is the subject of the next paper. The last paper is from the borderland of hagiography, culture and heraldry and shows the image of Saint Florian in some coat of arms of Polish cities and municipalities.

Two reviews and one report are published in the column of reviews, materials and reports. The first review is a lengthy academic opinion concerning the question of relations between Polish and German Catholicism, and the second review concerns the Polish edition of the next volume of *Opera omnia* by Joseph Ratzinger. The report from the conference on the ethos of work is placed at the end.

