

Editorial

The present issue of „Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” has been published in the 50th anniversary year of the publication of its first volume. In 1968 a circle of young theologians based in Opole Silesia created an academic journal with the intention of becoming a platform for the presentation and spreading of results of academic research in theology and history conducted by themselves. It was their intention that the journal was to be an annual but because of a deficiency of printing materials and interference of censorship of the time conducted by the communist authorities the journal could not be published that regularly. As a result of this, the name of the journal was changed. It also why that in the 50th anniversary year of the journal this is only the 38th issue. This half century has been a lot of changes take place. They concern among other things the range of the journal which is not only of a local character but is published in a concrete community and is open to authors from across the land and from abroad and the contents of the journal has an universal character – dealing with local and global questions. There form of the journal has also seen changes (besides the printed version there is now also an online version available at www.rtso.uni.opole.pl), the frequency of publication has also changed (since 2016 it is a biannual), and the graphic design too. The profile of the journal is, however unchanged, and it remains dedicated to articles from theology and history (especially the history of the Church and of Silesia) and to the related disciplines of theology like religious sciences, the study of culture, canon law, family sciences, psychology of religion, sociology of religion.

The first number of the “jubilee volume” contains in the column of academic texts articles from theology, history and disciplines related to theology. The issue opens with an patristic article which critically presents the present depiction with a thesis about “house churches”. Among the texts of fundamental theology is an article which analyses the pictures of Mary in the documents of the Latin American Episcopal Council after the Second Vatican Council. The next article concerns the influence of Hellenism on the formation of Christology. There is a text from the borderland of biblical theology and dogmatics which is concerned with the teachings about Satan and uses contemporary criteria for its evaluation.

The next article shows the apologetic approach of dialogue between faith and rationality as an understanding of the Oriental Fathers. Another article presented in this issue focuses on an area of moral theology and the concerns held over the challenges connected with the digitalisation and robotization of work and it justifies a need for ethics towards the modern changes in the world of work. From the borderland of ecological ethics and spirituality there is an article which discusses ecological spirituality as the basis of the encyclical letter *Laudato si'* by Pope Francis.

There are two articles from the field of history which are both concerned with hagiography. The first of them tell us a few words about St Demetrius as a conqueror of evil in the Byzantine and Slavic tradition till fifteenth century. The second one is concerned with the question of the assassination of Duke Wenceslas in relation to the background of social changes in Bohemia in the first trimester of tenth century. The next two historical texts are concerned with the Dominican order. The first of them presents the history of the St Anne convent of Dominican nuns in the old town of Prague from the middle ages up to the eighteenth century. The second paper talks about the Dominican brothers and sisters of the Silesian Congregation in the year 1774.

The next two articles belong to the field of disciplines related to theology. The first of them has an interdisciplinary character and presents outlines of the modern trend of transhumanism, which discusses its dimensions and specific traits and makes it of critical value from a Christian philosophical and theological standpoint. The topic of the second text from the field of family sciences is an analysis of the fundamental notions concerned with the question of violence in the family.

The column *Reviews – Materials – Reports* contains texts and includes two of which are academic reviews of popular sciences books. The text which follows that is a presentation about Professor Józef Herbut who died in March 2018 and who published his articles in “Theological-Historical Studies of Opole Silesia” over the last 50 years. The present issue is a good opportunity to present an unpublished article written by Herbut about different languages in the ecumenical Catholic-Evangelical dialogue. The last text in this column is a reflection on the art of dying connected with Professor Alojzy Marcol who was an author of articles which were published in this journal and who died in March 2017.

50 years ago the founders of this journal had an idea to “(...) publish studies and thesis from the most widely understood of theological disciplines and articles connected with Silesian subject matter. The editorial board itself understands that the undertaking – that is publishing one’s own theological journal at an academic level for an overall small and young community – is not without risk that not all

the presented works in this issue are of a satisfactory level but the position taken is that valuable possessions can be arrived at by not such successful attempt” (*Od redakcji*, “Rocznik Teologiczny Śląska Opolskiego” [1968], vol. I, p. 9). The next issue of this journal confirms the rightness and rationale of risk taken half a century ago.