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From the Editor

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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„You will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (J 8,32). This statement from John’s Gospel was once defined by John Paul II as the most important sentence in the whole Gospel. The pope referred to these words in his first encyclical, *Redemptor hominis*. The Church by Christ’s nomination is a guardian and a teacher of God’s truth and freedom. In the name of God’s mission the Church is involved in work on behalf of the real dignity of human person. Thus, not incidentally, the idea: „man is the way of the Church” (RH 14) became the motto of this encyclical. Recalling the cited words from the Gospel, John Paul II wrote: „These words contain both a fundamental requirement and a warning: the requirement of an honest relationship with regard to truth as a condition for authentic freedom, and the warning to avoid every kind of illusory freedom, every superficial unilateral freedom, every freedom that fails to enter into the whole truth about man and the world. Today also, even after two thousand years, we see Christ as the one who brings man freedom based on truth, frees man from what curtails, diminishes and as it were breaks off this freedom at its root, in man’s soul, his heart and his conscience” (RH 12).

Today the Church and the world need both teachers and witnesses of the truth. What seems to be particularly important, is bearing witness to the truth not only with words, but also with testimony of pure and good intention, showing unselfishness and sacrifice of life for the truth, with the truth and by the truth. The paragon and the root of such an attitude to life is God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the only Redeemer of man and of the world. He spent whole His life on earth serving the truth first and foremost. Christ defined the sense of His mission on earth, saying to Pilate: „...for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.” (J 18,37) As Jesus’ disciples we have a duty to gain and keep in ourselves the conviction that we are exceptional in this world. In the present volume of „Studies” Fr. Rusecki comments on this topic in his reflection. He stresses the fact that we are to testify to the

exceptional truth of Christianity with full conviction, but not with pride, arrogance or disrespect for others. The exceptional character of Christianity derives its power solely from the Person of Jesus Christ. Christians who take part in various forms of dialogue with the world must not forget about it.

John Paul II was an unwavering witness of the truth about God and man. Fr. Tadeusz Styczeń writes about it in his presentation. As the pope's student he himself has become a master for others. A special challenge for the Church on the threshold of the third millennium is the concern about proclaiming the evangelical hope and the Christian vision of man, inspired by the Mystery of Jesus Christ's Incarnation. Faced with various fears and dangers to the contemporary man, such as forcing anthropology without God and without Christ, Christians should remind others, that the last word belongs to God's Love. It is a very important task for Christians to help understand and overcome the tension inside of man, where the limited meets the infinite. Longing for immortality has accompanied man from the moment of his creation. Nowadays a significant role is played by medicine in this respect. There exists, however, a strong temptation of searching for solutions which act against the dignity of man. Fr. Jarosław Merecki SDS, in his article, indicates different ways of understanding the goals which medicine aims to attain.

Benedict XVI is a worthy successor and follower of John Paul II, who was both a teacher and a guardian of truth. Such a firm and unwavering position encounters resistance and even rejection. Fr. Piotr Ślęczka SDS, analyses this issue referring to Benedict XVI lectures in La Sapienza University in Rome and in Ratzbona University. To understand the teaching of the present pope it is important to know that he is a follower of the Munich school of history. In his article Fr. Edward Staniek shows the formation of the theological roots in the reflection of Benedict XVIth and differences between school in a speculative and a historical interpretation. Next, Fr. Dariusz Zielonka SDS discusses theology of priesthood in the reflection of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Important current issues are dealt with in the articles written by Fr. Bogdan Giemza SDS, Fr. Krzysztof Wons SDS and Fr. Krzysztof Pawlina. Fr. Bogdan Giemza's reflections concentrate on the phenomenon of migration in its pastoral aspect, as a sign of the times and a real challenge to the ministry of the Church. Fr. Wons, in the context of the Twelfth Ordinary General Gathering of Bishops' Synod presents the text of the working document *The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*, prepared for this Synod, concentrating on the practice of *lectio divina*. Fr. Krzysztof Pawlina analyses important issues of Ministry sacerdotal concerning Ministry of youth.

Man lives and works in a given cultural and social context. The region of Lower Silesia takes pride in the great number of people, who were born here, formed their character and grew in the Christian and scientific way of life. In the present issue of „Studia Salvatoriana Polonica” we invite the reader to look at the articles devoted to a person connected with Lower Silesia: Angelus Silesius (1624-1677). Fr. Bogdan Ferdek discusses the issue of man being filled with God, based on the work written by Angelus Silesius, entitled *Cherubic Wanderer*. The amateurs of art will find it interesting to read the article by Jan Wrabec, on the architecture of the mansion in Bagno, the present residence of the Salvatorian Theological Seminary.

The section of articles also includes reflections of Fr. Bronisław Wenanty Zubert OFM connected with this year's 25th anniversary of promulgation of the Code of Canon Law as well as thoughts of Fr. Rafał Masarczyk SDS on the topic of peace of the spirit in the *Spiritual Diary* of the Servant of God, Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, founder of S alvatorians and Salvatorian Sisters.

The rhythm of life and scientific activities in the Salvatorian Theological Seminary in Bagno is presented in the reviews and reports, among others, the report of the scientific and didactic work of the Seminary in the academic year 2007/2008 and selected 2007 salvatorian bibliography.

Father Bogdan Giemza SDS