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From the Editor

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

■ From the Editor

We present to the Readers the first issue of the periodical „Studia Salvatoriana Polonica”, published by the Salvatorian Major Seminary in Bagno near Wrocław. Does this periodical have a chance to make it when there exist so many similar periodicals, published by different academic centers in Poland? We can also ask another question: does it make sense to spend the human and material resources connected with this undertaking? What makes us publish it, despite the uncertainty we experience? Could it be an idle dream or excessive ambition?

I admit I can not find easy answers to these and similar questions. However, the idea of publishing a scholarly periodical is not something new in our seminary circle. In the 90’s I took part in some meetings during which we passionately discussed this possibility. For many reasons those ideas were not realized. All the more I am grateful to the confreres who picked up again the very idea which I had suggested, and contributed in many ways to make it happen.

What is our audience and what goals do we set for ourselves? It is mainly aimed at the Church’s scholarly milieu and at individuals. We wish to establish cooperation with libraries of theological colleges and with seminary libraries, as well as with periodicals of a similar profile. And what are our goals? In the social sciences there is the notion of „small homeland”. It refers to the local community of a given place or region. Through these communities we open ourselves towards our homeland and towards the world. Also the Church realizes itself in small communities, creating lively, interconnected cells. A seminary should not so much „produce” priests as create a community of teachers and students, with the passion to know God and the human person. Therefore, out of concern for a proper formation of future priests, a seminary should care for intellectual culture and for solid scholarly discipline. In one of his articles, Cardinal J. Ratz-

inger wrote that those who loved wanted to know. Also John Paul II many times stressed the need for „the service of thought.”

The Salvatorian Major seminary in Bagno was founded in 1953, and for a dozen or so years it has been affiliated with the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław. During this time many eminent professors from Poland and abroad taught here. The Seminary can brag that it educated professors who are its pride and who have made important contributions to the development of theology and human knowledge. It is enough to mention the late Fr. Jan Drozd, Fr. Tadeusz Styczeń, Fr. Helmut Juros, Fr. Czesław Cekiera, Fr. Zygmunt Hajduk, and Fr. Antoni Kiełbasa. The purpose of the new periodical is to promote the Salvatorian Major Seminary as a scholarly institution and to cooperate with other scholarly centers. We hope that our periodical will contribute to the development of the teaching staff and will be an incentive to scholarly activity for the younger generation.

The title of the periodical indicates its scholarly character, as well as its Salvatorian and Polish roots. One has to keep in mind another Salvatorian scholarly center – Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology in Morogoro (Tanzania/Africa) and the periodical „Africa Tomorrow” published there. „Studia Salvatoriana Polonica” is a yearbook. It contains the following sections: articles, reviews, reports, and presentations.

The first issue is opened by the inaugural lecture given by Fr. Jerzy Szymik on October 11, 2007, in Bagno. The author proposes the thesis that science and the Church need each other. The five articles that follow are a reflection on the teaching of Benedict XVI. This reflection is introduced by Fr. Stephan Horn, a close collaborator of Cardinal Ratzinger. He presents the theological preferences, developed by Ratzinger as professor, bishop and cardinal, which surely influence decisively his thinking and course of action as Pope. Then Fr. Waldemar Irek reaches the conclusion that the thought of the present Pope is connected not only with the matters of the Church, but is also focused on social and cultural issues concerning Europe, its Christian roots as well as contemporary threats and hopes for our continent. Fr. Bogdan Ferdek helps us to grasp the ecumenical threads of Cardinal Ratzinger’s teaching. Other important threads of the Pope’s teaching, namely these concerning priestly formation and ecclesiology, are analyzed by Fr. Bogdan Giemza and Fr. Roman Słupek.

Fr. Bernard Witek, as a biblical scholar, discusses the Book of Proverbs and literary context. Articles by Fr. Tadeusz Zasepa and Krzysztof Wroczyński are the outcome of the mission symposium on the theme *Faith Facing Ideol-*

ogy: Evangelization in the Post-Communist Countries Today, which was held in April, 2007, in Bagno. The article section closes with a reflection by Fr. Michał Piela on the validity today of the thought and apostolic zeal of Father Francis Jordan, Founder of the Salvatorians and of the Salvatorian Sisters.

The first issue is complemented by reviews, reports on the scholarly and teaching activity in the academic year 2006/2007, a selected bibliography of the Salvatorians for 2006, and summaries of the master theses of the students of our Seminary.

We are aware of the risk connected with the undertaking of publishing a periodical. Asking for honest criticism, we count on good collaboration and we look towards the future with hope. We entrust our work to the Divine Savior and His Mother.

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