

## SUMMARY

The whole current issue is devoted to John Paul II's vision of Europe. Its core consists of the materials of an international scientific conference held at the Institute of John Paul II in May, 1994, whose theme was the vision of Europe as perceived by John Paul II. Apart from the materials from the conference, the present issue contains articles, reviews and reports generally connected with its main theme. Special place in this issue is taken by the essay written by the Editor in Chief of the „Ethos”, Tadeusz Styczeń SDS, devoted to the newly published book by the Pope, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*.

The general conviction underlying the publications in this issue is a claim about the Christian essence of Europe. Without reference made to the Christian roots of Europe (which is the title given to the first block of articles) whose specific epitome is the principle of respect for human dignity and life of every man, admitting no exceptions – European culture will not manage to overcome the crisis which it is currently undergoing. This is the leading theme of the text *From the Editors* which opens the issue. This conviction has its foundation in the published fragment of the address of John Paul II to the bishops of Europe before the 1990 Synod.

The first block of articles contains two texts significant for the philosophical-theological essence of Europe. The first one is an old article (dated 1978) written by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and entitled *Where are the Borders of Europe?* which presents the spiritual perspectives of European civilization. It is the first publication of this article in Polish. The same problem of the spiritual borders of Europe is discussed in the text *Europe as a Philosophical Concept* by R. Buttiglione and J. Merecki SDS, the first part of an extensive dissertation which will be continued in subsequent issues of the „Ethos”. The paper by Sergiey Averintzev also directs the reader's thought straight to the Christian values which Europe must take into account. Juan de Dios Vial Correa, president of the newly established Papal Academy for of Life, pays special attention to the value of life seen from the Christian perspective, in his letter opening the activities of the Academy.

The materials from the scientific conference held at the Institute of John Paul II are presented according to the structure of the course of the debates. The conference was opened by the Chancellor of the Catholic University of Lublin, Fr Stanisław Wielgus, whose speech was followed by an introductory address by the Director of the Institute, Fr Tadeusz Styczeń, and then by the lectures of successive participants. They all touch a very broad range of the most important aspects of the culture of Europe: thus, they deal with the domains of economy, politics, social relations, law, education, but, first of all, attention is focused on the understanding of man and his values in various aspects of life. Josef Seifert and Jacek Salij OP present their lectures which discuss the philosophical foundations of the concepts of man and society. The second aspect covered during the conference concerns the problem of the theological foundations of a correct conception of man and society. Successive lectures were delivered, respectively, by Alphons Horten, Robert A. Sirico CSP and Damian P. Fedoryka. The final block of the materials from the conference deals with the relations between the democratic state and the concern about man by this state. It contains lectures by Wolfgang Waldstein and Andrzej Szostek

MIC. Each of the blocks reporting the proceedings of the conference ends with a record of remarks from the floor which followed the lectures. The whole ends with a *Recapitulation* of the conference presented by Rocco Buttiglione.

A separate section *The Europe of Tomorrow* includes a record of a round table discussion which constituted an integral part of the conference. Considerations about the future of Europe were presented successively by Abp K. Majdański, A. Grzeškowiak, Fr M. A. Krąpiec, Fr M. Schooyans, A. Horten, Fr S. Čegovnik, and R. Buttiglione.

Issues important for the spiritual shape of future Europe, especially for the place of the Catholic Church in it, are dealt with in the block entitled *Theological Polemics*, which concerns the notorious letter of three German bishops about pastoral services for divorced persons who entered into second unions. The block contains texts which criticize the initiative, namely, a letter by three American theologians, an analytical article by Germain Grisez, and a theological interpretation by Fr Jerzy Bajda. (The letter of the three German bishops was published this year in Polish in the October issue of „Przegląd Powszechny”).

The theme of the vision of Europe is also reflected in the standing columns of the issue. In the section *Thinking about Fatherland*, Jean-Marie Meyer calls Antigone to be a witness in the accusation of Europe with the crime of homicide of unborn children. In the section *Notes and Reviews* the problems of Europe and the world recur in the reviews of the works by Lev Shestov (I. Ziemiński), Paul Johnson (W. Chudy), Zbigniew Brzeziński (T. Detyna) and a review of *Europa jutra* [The Europe of Tomorrow] which is an outcome of an international conference held in 1993 (C. Ritter). The section also contains a discussion of a new edition of the book *Osoba i czyn* [The Person and the Act] (J. Galarowicz). A Polish accent of the section, though also connected with all-European issues, can be found in a study by D. Chabrajska and M. Rajewski devoted to the phenomenon of „the captive mind of artists and men of culture during the period of totalitarianism (on the examples of books by J. Trznadel, S. Murzański and W. S. Szymański) and a review of a film by K. Kutz *Śmierć jak kromka chleba* [Death like a Slice of Bread] (Fr J. Szymik).

In the section of *Reports* an important subject is the Conference of Population and Development which was held in Cairo, in September, 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations. The text by Fr S. Nowosad – with a report on a symposium which had preceded the Conference – devotes much attention to the necessity of opposing the trend promoting the pro-abortion attitude in the world. P. Mikulska has written a report from the VIth International Congress of the International Federation for Family Life Promotion which was held in September, 1994, at the Catholic University of Lublin.

The value of the *ratio* (argument) overcoming *force* (violence) constitutes a feature characteristic of the theme of this issue. The attitude of *Plus ratio quam vis* lies at the foundations of Christian Europe. In the present issue of the „Ethos” one may find the postulate of loyalty to this attitude on several occasions. Its specific antithesis was the famous question asked by Stalin about the number of the Pope’s divisions, a question which is being asked again in various regions of the world of today. Such questions are examined in the next installment of the section *Through the Prism of the Ethos* (W. Chudy).

The issue ends, as usually, with a *Bibliography*, this time containing an annotated list of the speeches by John Paul II on the subject of Europe (M. Filipiak and C. Ritter) and *Notes about Authors*.