

## SUMMARY

The current issue of the "Ethos" takes up the subject and the dignity of the role of woman in the family and in society. Emphasizing the equality of the dignity of woman and man, the "Ethos" proposes to recall the originality of woman, expressed in her gift of corporeal and spiritual maternity. The note From the Editors highlights those features of the maternal vocation of the woman which constitute a model of realizing the calling of every human being in his or her relations to other people and to God.

The monographic part of the issue begins with fragments of the Papal missive on the World Peace Day. In it John Paul II appeals to women to declare themselves decisively on the side of life which is a foundation of lasting peace. At the same time he calls on all to fight against discrimination and violence against women and thus to help them recognize their true dignity and role both in the family and in public life.

Contrary to the practice established in the past, the block of articles of the present issue is preceded by The Interviews of the "Ethos". Here Fr Tadeusz Styczeń interviews Chiara Lubich, founder of the *Focolari* movement. Her person and accomplishments demonstrate the consolidating and creative influence of the woman – the woman shaped by the phenomenon of Christianity – on modern world.

The first section of the main block of articles of the issue is entitled The Dignity of the Woman. It opens with an article by Fr Jerzy Bajda *Peace Depends on Women*, which contains a theological analysis of the missive of John Paul II quoted above. The article by Bishop Jorge Medina Estévez presents the problem of the dignity of the woman in the teaching of the Pope, especially in reference to the apostolic letter *Mulieris dignitatem*. In the next article Małgorzata Borkowska, OSB illustrates a specifically woman's road of realizing the universal calling to sanctity, through the profiles of distinguished women exalted to sainthood. The problems of the dignity of the woman in contemporary feminism and the philosophical foundations of this movement are presented by Zofia J. Zdybicka, USJK in her article entitled *Why the Feminism Complex?* The section ends with a paper by Alicja Grześkowiak entitled *The Principle of the Equality of Women and Men on the Forum of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*.

In the second section, entitled What Are They Like?, Cardinal John O'Connor negatively evaluates the influence of radical feminism on the shaping of the role of the woman in the developed countries and also suggests a different, Christian vision of the woman in the world. The situation in Poland is presented by Leon Dyczewski, OFMConv who describes the current changes in understanding the social roles of woman and man in the light of sociological studies. This subject is also discussed in the next two articles, Grażyna Sołtyk's *The Social Condition of the Polish Family* and Wiesława Piotrowska's *Womens Attitudes towards Work and their Professional Aspirations*. All these studies show that Polish women – though more and more frequently taking up work outside home, whether forced by the economic situation or by their own choosing – still value family and home more highly and derive satisfaction from the realization of the tasks resulting from these roles. On the other hand, Anna Przyborowska presents the means employed by the mass media to manipulate the consciousness of women and to depreciate the roles of wives and mothers as well as the moral norms connected with them. The article by Teodor Szymanowski

presents the social sources of delinquency among women and the specific moral-existential problems which a woman faces in prison. The section ends with a paper by Mary Aquin O'Neill, RSM who presents problems revealed by feminism and connected with the modern understanding of masculinity and femininity and who calls on scholars and artists to take active interest in them.

The leading theme of the third section, entitled *Behold, the Mother*, is introduced by a youthful poem by Karol Wojtyła, *Over Your White Sepulchre*, dedicated to the memory of his dead mother. Theological considerations about the role of the Holy Mary – the Woman and the Mother – in the Church are presented by Jan Pach OSPPE. The biblical story about two mothers fighting for a child in front of king Salomon has inspired the reflections by Alicja Grześkowiak about the nature of maternal love in her paper *The Mother and her Child*. The educational mission of the woman – the wife and the mother – is discussed by Anouk and Jean-Marie Meyer who remind us that just like the child has been entrusted to the care of the woman-mother, so the woman is entrusted to the care of the man-husband. On the other hand, Ewa Jabłońska-Deptuła, moving back to the times of the partitions of Poland, demonstrates how Polish women realized their educational mission by passing on the traditional moral, religious and patriotic values to their children.

The section is in a sense supplemented by the text by Fr Czesław Bartnik, *When I Think: Mother...*, contained in the regular column *Thinking about Fatherland*, and a review of a collection of testimonies, entitled *Profiles of Priests Mothers*, written by Krystyna Borowczyk.

The section *Theological polemics* presents a paper by Giovanni B. Sala, SJ, written on the 25th anniversary of the "Königstein Declaration", in which he shows how this document calls in question the teaching of the encyclical *Humanae vitae* and ultimately the authority of the Magisterium of the Church.

The section *Discussions and Reviews* begins with Jarosław Mereckis, SDS review of a collection of essays by R. Legutko, *Absolute Ethics and Open Society*. Barbara Kiereś discusses two books which take up the question of the woman from the point of view of Christian theology, N. Échivards *Woman, Who Are You?* and P. Evdokimovs *The Woman and the Salvation of the World*. In a review of M. Haukes *Gott oder Göttin. Feministische Theologie auf dem Prüfstand* Elżbieta Adamiak considers the question whether this particular proposition can contribute to the dialogue with feminist theology. Magdalena Żardecka subjects to criticism a popular book entitled *Brain Sex. The Real Difference between Men and Women*. Discussing a study by P. J. Viladrich, *Agonia del matrimonio legal*, Jan F. Jacko shows the relations between moral positivism and the contemporary crisis of the marriage.

In the section *Reports* Dorota Kornas-Biela writes about the Cairo Conference on Population and Development and expresses a conviction that the real intention of the meeting was a consolidation of the economic gap between the North and the South, while feminist movements served merely as instruments for the realization of this covert aim. The other report, entitled *The Faces of Polish Catholicism*, by Alfred Wierzbicki, contains an account of the meeting with the editors of the „Tygodnik Powszechny” held at the Catholic University of Lublin.

In the section *Through the Prism of the "Ethos"*, Wojciech Chudy analyses the crisis of the attitude of valiancy witnessed these days.

The current issue of the "Ethos" contains two new columns. The first one is called *The Christian Roots of Europe* and it contains the second part of an article by Rocco Buttiglione and Jarosław Merecki, SDS, *Europe as a Philosophical Concept*. The other column, called *Letters*, presents a polemic between Jacek Wojtyśiak and Janusz Gajda, caused by a review of Janusz Gajda's book published in "Ethos" No. 24 (1993).

The issue ends with regular columns, that is, the *Calendar* of the sixteenth year of the Pontificate (M. Filipiak), *Bibliography* of the addresses by John Paul II about women (M. Filipiak), and *Notes about Authors*.