

SUMMARY

The current issue of the „Ethos”, entitled „The Priest at the End of the Century – a Servant or a Functionary?”, offers reflection both on the perpetual essence of priesthood and on the mission of the priest at the present historical moment. As it is stated in the text *From the Editors*, man’s striving after the touch of the Infinite was satisfied in the priesthood of Christ. Priesthood concerns both the mystery of God and the mystery of man, and hence it cannot be explained merely in the terms of arts. Yet one can approach the mysteries that it involves through philosophy and theology.

The essence of priesthood is presented in the quoted extract from John Paul II’s book *Gift and Mystery*, in which the Holy Father describes the priest as the dispenser of God’s mysteries, as one who has been entrusted by God Himself with the distribution of His gifts. The text of the homily delivered by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski on the 18th anniversary of John Paul II’s pontificate is devoted to priesthood understood as bearing witness to Christ, even if it were to be the testimony of shedding one’s blood.

The first part of the articles is entitled *The Essence of Priesthood*. It begins with a theological analysis of the essence of priesthood, presented by Stanisław Nagy, SCJ. Then, Vittorio Messori, an Italian journalist, writes about the need for preserving priestly celibacy in today’s world, which he considers as a visible testimony to the existence of a reality different from the earthly one, and constituting the reason for free renouncement of matrimony. In another article Marek Marczewski discusses the office of permanent deacon, which used to be present in the ancient Church, and which was reintroduced in the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council. The final article in this part, written by Fr Tomasz Węclawski, is a reflection on the question of a God that conceals himself. The author observes that to be concealed means to be unattainable, which may result not only from the distance of the object, but also from such closeness that simply eliminates distance, which is hence no longer perceived.

The next part comprises two articles on John Paul II’s *Letters for Good Thursday*. Fr Sławomir Nowosad points to the main theological motives present in these letters, while Fr Jan D. Szczurek presents the tasks which John Paul II sets for priests.

The succeeding section is devoted to the *modern ethos of priesthood*. It opens with an article by Karol Wojtyła, which presents the author’s reflections on his stay in France at the end of the 1940’s. He notices the need for new forms of evangelization in a society which is only nominally Christian. While pondering on the situation of the Church in today’s Poland, Bp Tadeusz Pieronek states that taking the responsibility for the Christian shape of public life may take place only if all the lay people realize their irreplaceable position in the Church. Fr P. Pawlukiewicz’s considerations are devoted to the question concerning people’s attitudes to the clergy. Among others, he analyses the causes of anticlericalism, which has been growing in Poland during the recent years. Józef Augustyn, SJ, in turn analyses the demands from those who are to

educate future priests, included in John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Pastores dabo vobis*. This section is concluded with an article by Witold Zdaniewicz, SAC, in which the author – using sociological data – considers the question of what contemporary man expects from a priest.

The next group of articles bears the title *The Church and Mary*. The opening text by Fr Jerzy Bajda presents the aspect of the theology of Priesthood which is bound with the person of Virgin Mary. In the article that follows Bogumił Gacka, MIC, presents the place that Mary occupies in the history of salvation, and concentrates in particular on the mystery of Mary's maternity and on the implications of this mystery for human maternity. The next two texts are devoted to the role and the place of the convent nun in the Church. Sr Teresa Wojtarowicz, OP, reflects on the formation of the candidates for convent nuns, and she points to the necessity of shaping the community spirit in persons who come from the world dominated by a strong feeling of individual autonomy. Sr Lucyna Seweryniak, OCD, in turn describes the work of convent nuns in Charkov (Ukraine), which is an area which once was a place of fight with religion, and of systematic destruction of the Christian cultural heritage.

The concluding group of articles is entitled *The Priest in the World of the Family*. Elżbieta Adamiak stresses the role of the family in the formation of a priest, who is to become father and brother to the people that he has been entrusted with. In the succeeding article Fr Krzysztof Gózdź conducts a theological analysis of the social dimension of the priest's mission, while Fr Krzysztof Jeżyna presents how this dimension is executed in the priest's work with academic youth. In turn, Roman Dzwonkowski, SAC, gives examples of the heroism of priests working in the ex-Soviet Union, that is, in the country in which God was once declared to have been eradicated in people's hearts. This section is concluded with a philological and ethical analysis of Karol Wojtyła's poem *Thinking: Fatherland ...*, which is presented by Krzysztof Dybciak.

The section *Interviews of the „Ethos”* includes Fr Alfred Wierzbicki's talk with Fr Luigi Giussani, the founder of the „*Communione e liberazione*” movement, in which he speaks about his experiences in leading the young towards the religious experience.

In the standing column of the „*Ethos*” entitled *Thinking about Fatherland*, Adam Rodziński reflects on contemporary man's rootedness in the past, as well as on his moral indebtedness to all those who have cooperated in creating our homeland.

The section which comprises *Polemics* presents Tadeusz Szkołut's polemic against the article *In the Beginning there was Truth* by Tadeusz Styczeń, SDS, which was included in the issue of the „*Ethos*” entitled „*Facing Postmodernism*”. The author of the polemic accuses T. Styczeń of connecting the dignity of the human person too closely with the recognition and acceptance of objective truth. In answer to this accusation T. Styczeń points to the difference between the dignity belonging to the human person, which as such is inviolate, and personal dignity, which concerns one's moral level.

The section *Reportage* includes Włodzimierz Gołaszewski's sketches of his trips to Southern America and Africa, and of his meetings with the Polish missionaries who work there, not infrequently risking their lives.

The standing column *Notes and Reviews* opens with a discussion of the current issue of the periodical „*Vox Patrum*”, which is devoted to presbyterhood and episcopate in the Church of the ancient times. Fr Kazimierz Świąt in turn reviews the book by Abp Bolesław Pylak devoted to the activity of Card Stefan Wyszyński as the ordinary bishop of the Lublin diocese. Tomasz Górka discusses the testimony presented by Bp Kazimierz Majdański, of the imprisonment of priests in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps, and of the activity which they nevertheless led there. Zbigniew Krzyszkowski reviews the reflections of Max Thurian, a theologian close to the community of Taizé, on the identity of the priest. Andrzej Zieliński discusses the monography on the thought of K. Wojtyła by the Italian philosopher, Rocco Buttiglione. In another review, Dorota Chabrajska discusses the book by Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi devoted to the person of John

Paul II, and to the role which he played in the political events which ultimately resulted in the downfall of communism. Artur Zawisza summarizes the main ideas included in a collection of addresses and letters by Fr Stanisław Wielgus, the Rector of the KUL. The next article is a review by Antoni Szwed of Krzysztof Murawski's book on political philosophy. This part of the volume concludes with the sub-section „Proposals of the Ethos”.

The section devoted to *Reports* includes Jan D. Szczurek's discussion of the symposium organized in Cracow to celebrate the 50th anniversary of John Paul II's priestly ordination; the report by Alina Rynio on the meeting of members of the „Solidarity” trade union with the Holy Father; a commentary by Jan Strękowski on the international conference of former dissidents organized by the „Chart” Centre in Podkowa Leśna; some observations by Artur Zawisza concerning the presidential campaign in the USA in 1996; Krzysztof Jeżyna's report on the symposium organized by the Department of Moral Theology at the KUL, devoted to the research work done by Rev. Prof Seweryn Rosik; Arkadiusz Gut's discussion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Philosophy at the KUL; Fr Paweł F. Rąbca's reflections on the pastoral function of a music studio; Wojciech Chudy's report on the seminar held by the State Board for Radio and Television on the moral commitment of those who work in the mass media; and Anna Truskolaska's observations on the Forum of the Academic Youth devoted to the mass media.

The standing column *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* presents Robert Spaemann's critical analysis of the essence of the initiative known as „We are the Church”, popularized mainly in German-speaking countries.

In the feuilleton on two kinds of boredom, included in the section *Through the Prism of the Ethos*, Wojciech Chudy writes about the spiritual condition of the contemporary generation.

The volume concludes with the *Bibliography* (by Maria Filipiak) of John Paul II's addresses on priesthood, and with *Notes about Authors*.