

SUMMARY

The main subject-matter of the present issue is the ethos of the mass media. In the modern world the mass media have won a significant position in the processes of social communication. As the leading article *From the Editors* emphasizes, the mass media can be an instrument of both good and evil, depending on whether they are directed to such an aim as the human person, its life and dignity, or whether they ignore and evade that aim and are turned into instruments of an ideology or sheer profits. This thesis is accompanied by the address of John Paul II delivered on the occasion of the Day of the Mass Media in which the Pope binds the freedom of the mass media with service to the responsible freedom of the human being.

In the current issue the main body of articles concerned with its monographic topic is placed in two sections. The section entitled *The Human Being and Social Communication* contains texts dealing with the matters of interhuman communication from the point of view of philosophy and theology. The paper by Tadeusz Styczeń presents the fundamental ethical relation of communication which is expressed in bearing testimony for the sake of truth and love of the human being. The theological principles at the basis of the mass media are discussed by Fr Jerzy Szymik and Karol Klauza. Bp Adam Lepa takes up the problem of the functioning of the media in the Church and considers the phenomenon of the domination in the mass media of the visual medium to the disadvantage of the verbal medium. In his study Fr Janusz Nagórny shows that the mission of the journalist in contemporary world must assume the aspiring towards truth and constructing a real community of persons. In the last paper of the section, Fr Jerzy Bajda analyses the evil of pornography in the context of the metaphysics of the human being and anthropological theology.

The second section devoted to the mass media concerns the *Responsibility of the Journalist* and contains papers on the functioning of the mass media under the conditions of modern democracy (such as those prevailing in Poland). From a general perspective Wojciech Sadurski discusses the assumptions determining the freedom of the mass media in a democratic system. The ethos of the mass media in the twentieth century, with special attention paid to their crisis in recent decades, is the subject-matter of the study by Rafał A. Ziemkiewicz. Two papers are devoted to Poland. In an analytic study Maciej Iłowiecki demonstrates the methods of manipulation in a large part of the national press, while Jan M. Jackowski examines the social and political context of this "battle for the souls" in the Polish media.

A specific complementation of the two sections mentioned above is to be found in the published materials from the ceremony of the granting of the honoris causa degree to the great Russian writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in Liechtenstein in 1993. Included are the laudatory address by Josef Seifert (Rector of the International Academy of Philosophy) and the speech by the writer himself in which he asks the human kind to look at the passing century and perceive in it a bitter lesson of errors and blames which should enable people to draw lessons for the future.

An important group of articles in this issue is to be found in the section *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* which is devoted to the new Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Catechism, published at the end of 1992, will appear in the Polish translation in 1994. The papers included in the present issue of the "Ethos" aim at pre-

paring — at least partly — the reception of this document of the Church in Poland. In his paper Wojciech Chudy presents the genesis and history of the Catechism coming into being, as well as the first opinions following its publication, both from the official standpoint of the Church as well as the first press reactions. Two subsequent texts are of theological character. Fr Marian Rusecki examines the problem of the credibility of the Christian religion and its new aspects in the Catechism, while Bp Jan Szlaga discusses the pastoral significance of the new Catechism.

The standing column *T h i n k i n g A b o u t F a t h e r l a n d* contains an oration for 1994 announced by the President of Italy Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. It includes many considerations which may be significant also for Poland.

The current issue of the "Ethos" introduces a new section, entitled *T h r o u g h t h e P r i s m o f t h e E t h o s*. Its aim is to take up and comment on topical matters in social, political and cultural domains from the point of view of moral values. In this inaugurating issue we publish an essay by Wojciech Chudy which — on the example of the attempts of Poland to enter the NATO — takes up the problem of the sovereignty of decisions by small states in the international scene.

Most of the texts in the section *N o t e s a n d R e v i e w s* are connected with the monographic topic of the issue. While discussing a book in the field of the philosophy of God (ed. by Bp Bohdan Bejze), Andrzej Zieliński considers the question how one should speak about God when talking to contemporary people. The attitude of the Church towards the mass media is analysed in a book (ed. by Bp Jan Chrapek) reviewed by Ireneusz Ziemiński. A well-known book by J. Keane, *The Media and Democracy*, is discussed by Patrycja Mikulska, while Jacek Wojtysiak, on the example of one of the university publications, shows how one should not write about the mass media. Fr Jerzy Szymik touches the problem of the moral condition of cinema (when discussing the film festival called "Konfrontacje 1993"). The section also contains a review (by Małgorzata and Krzysztof Hudzik) of a stirring book entitled *The Longing and the Hunger. On People Living in Non-sacramental Unions* [Tęsknota i głód. O ludziach żyjących w związkach niesakramentalnych].

The section of *R e p o r t s* contains accounts from several important scientific conferences held in 1993: the 8th International Congress of Canon Law which took place in the Catholic University of Lublin (Cezary Ritter); a symposium of European Episcopates in Prague (Fr Janusz Nagórny); an ecumenical symposium in the concentration camp in Majdanek near Lublin (Eugeniusz Sakowicz); and a session about the attitudes towards God, the Church and the human being, organized by the Section of Spirituality of the Catholic University of Lublin (Fr Marek Chmielewski). The section also contains a report by Fr Michał Jagosz about the activities of the Centre of the Documentation of the Pontificate of John Paul II managed by him in Rome and an announcement about the Postgraduate School of Journalism opened at the Catholic University of Lublin and headed by Fr Prof. Leon Dyczewski.

The issue ends with a *C h r o n o l o g y* of the fifteenth year of the Pontificate of John Paul II and a *B i b l i o g r a p h y* of the speeches by John Paul II about the mass media (Maria Filipiak), as well as notes on contributors to present issue of the "Ethos".

Translated by Leszek S. Kolek