

SUMMARY

The present double issue of "Ethos" is published on the fifteenth anniversary of the pontificate of John Paul II and it is devoted to the problems of contemporary democracy (*For the Ethos of Democracy*). Considering these problems on the example of Europe, the authors of the editorial (*Od redakcji*) claim that democracy is facing a crucial question. The question refers to the subject of the child, the unborn child whose life is constantly threatened in full legality of democratic law. The question seems to focus the main dramas of contemporary democracy which permits the use of force and discrimination in respect to human persons and nations. "The answer to this question constitutes a «test case» with regard to a diagnosis concerning the spiritual state of the Europe of 1993". The criterion of this test implied by the words of John Paul II included in the standing section which opens the article part of the quarterly, namely: "The true dignity of Europe is founded on the respect for the right to life". On the threshold of the twenty-first century, "Ethos" calls for the s a v i n g o f d e m o c r a c y whose real source is an affirmation of dignity and, hence, first of all, of life of every human being; this conviction has been affirmed with exceptional emphasis by John Paul II in the text of the vigils in Denver, published at the very beginning of the current issue.

The latter text corresponds with the hortatory address delivered by the Pope on the inauguration of the pontificate on October 22, 1978. The fifteenth anniversary of the pontificate is an occasion for the editors to offer a summing up in the section *On the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Pontificate* Fr. Andrzej Szostek (*Pozwólcie Chrystusowi mówić do człowieka – Allow Christ to Speak to Man*) in a synthetic paper discusses the philosophical assumptions of the teaching of John Paul II when indicating elements of the ideal of mature personality. The consequences of the threats to the latter in the social life of Europe and the world, in the legislation and functioning of democratic state structures are discussed by Fr. Tadeusz Styczeń (*By człowiek stał się człowiekiem dla człowieka – So That Man Can Become Man towards Another Man*). In turn, in a jubilee paper Fr. Stanisław Nagy presents the manner in which man, thus understood, has become the way of the Church during this pontificate.

The subject *For the Ethos of Democracy* is presented in three groups of articles. Apart from that, one section – *The Pontificate Concerned about the Human Being* – has been devoted to a discussion of the fifteen years of the pontificate of John Paul II. The first section is entitled *Christian Values – the Values of the Human Being* and it contains papers demonstrating the identity of Christian values and all-human values (Fr. Tadeusz Styczeń), the teachings of the Pope about human rights (Fr. Anton Rauscher), and the problem of religious instruction at school (Andrzej Stelmachowski, former Minister of Education of the Republic of Poland).

For the main subject of the issue of crucial importance is the section *To Save Democracy*. A positive conception of the democratic system is presented by Rocco Buttiglione on the basis of the encyclical *Centesimus annus*. Potential and current threats to democracy inherent in democracy itself are outlined in the papers by Fr. Jacek Salij and Fr. Michel Schooyans. The problem which constitutes the "test case" for contemporary democracy and the rule of law, that is, the question of the defense of life or danger to the life of unborn children, is raised in the contributions by Carlo Casini, Fr. Andreas Laun, Alicja Grześkowiak and Andrzej

Wojciechowski. The section ends with two studies from the domain of social philosophy and sociology, one by Fr. Joachim Kondziela, about the necessity of introducing corrections into the rules of free market economy in the light of the indications of the catholic social doctrine, and the other by Tomasz Mickiewicz, about voting preferences under the conditions of a multiparty system.

The third section *For Europe – the Human Land*, is devoted to tradition, the present day and the future of the old Continent after the breakthrough of 1989. The section begins with an address by the Duke Nicolaus von und zu Liechtenstein delivered on the occasion of the birthday of the Pope John Paul II, on May 18, 1993, at the Catholic University of Lublin. From the point of view of a politician and a diplomat, the Duke perceives the moral, social and political threats to contemporary Europe, but he also sees some reasons for optimism. Some grounds for optimism he sees primarily in the Christian values which lay at the foundations of Europe. The classical beginnings of Europe are also recalled in the paper by Fr. Alfred Wierzbicki; Herbert Schambeck discusses the Christian duty of the defense of the unity and dignity of Europe; and Paweł Dzianisz describes the difficult present-day of Ireland, one of the most tragic places in contemporary Europe.

The section *The Pontificate Concerned about the Human Being* is devoted to the fifteenth anniversary of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła being called to the Apostolic See. The section begins with articles by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and Hans Urs von Balthasar who discuss the most characteristic features of the pontificate of John Paul II, namely, its rootedness in the Vatican Council II, the energy of full participation in the matters of the world which has its spiritual source in prayer, as well as the anthropological-moral dimension present in all the undertakings of this pontificate. Included is an extensive paper by Rocco Buttiglione which constitutes an *Introduction* to the third edition of the main work by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, *Osoba i czyn (The Acting Person)*, which is being prepared for publication. A very special character can be noticed in the by Stanisław Rodziński, which is a theological – artistic interpretation of the altars erected in Poland during the successive four pilgrimages of the Pope to his Fatherland (the paper is accompanied by rich photographic documentation).

The standing column of "Ethos", *Thinking about Fatherland*, of the present issue contains materials connected with the person of the President of the Republic of Poland in Exile, Edward Raczyński, who died in July, 1993. In his homily (*The Signs of our Struggles*), archbishop Kazimierz Majdański presents his reflections about the historiosophic sense of the experiences of the polish nation in the past half a century.

Other standing sections of the quarterly contain discussions of the most recent publications and scholarly events connected with the subject of this issue. In the section *Notes and Reviews* the Christian views of the problems of democracy are presented in the reviews by Fr. Maciej Zięba, Marek Piechowiak and Cezary Ritter. The characteristics of the religious consciousness of contemporary Western man are presented by Fr. Andrzej Perzyński while reviewing a book by Luigi Giussani. Two reviews present the lively contentions which constantly accompany the pontificate of the present Pope, namely, the controversy about the place of the Church in the world (a review by Ireneusz Ziemiński) and controversy about the encyclical *Humanae vitae* (review by Marek Czachorowski).

The section *Reports* describes the course and results of social or scientific events which took place in Lublin. They concerned: the presence of Christian in political life (a contribution by Piotr Kryczka) and the situation of the handicapped in the family and in the society by Ewa Skrzetuska.

The section *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* contains notes about two journeys by John Paul II, namely, his tenth visit in Africa in 1993 (Eugeniusz Sakowicz) and his third visit in Poland in 1987 (Fr. Leon Dyczewski asks about the lasting traces left in the hearts and minds of Poles after their meeting with the Pope). The third paper in this section is a sociological

analysis by Barbara Cieślińska carried out on the basis of studies on the role of the Polish Pope in the experiences of Polish immigrants in Italy.

The issue ends traditionally with a *Bibliography*, this time covering the speeches by John Paul II addressed during the last four years to Poles on the subject of the real meaning of democracy (Maria Filipiak and Karol Klauza), and *Notes about Authors* of the article section of the current issue of the "Ethos".

Translated by *Leszek S. Kolek*