

FOREWORD

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“Primarily, the proclamation of the Gospel”

„Przede wszystkim głoszenie Ewangelii”

The Synod of Bishops for the Amazon was held in the Vatican from October 6 to 26, 2019. In his concluding speech following the vote on the final document, Pope Francis emphasized that four dimensions – cultural, ecological, social, and pastoral – had to be considered to make what the Synod had given the Church understandable. I believe that the theological-doctrinal dimension is the fifth element that must be assumed due to its very nature. Although the Holy Father did not explicitly mention it, his statement that post-synodal exhortation should be promulgated by the end of the year assumes this dimension. It is the solemn teaching of the Bishop of Rome that is binding for the whole Church. Under the Code of Canon Law (can. 343), the post-synodal provisions are merely advisory to the Pope. Therefore, it should be recognized that the provisions of the Synod are only “the input to the debate” and have no legal force.

Pope Francis also noted that the most crucial thing is to focus on the evangelization. Proclaiming the Gospel requires tremendous creativity. Therefore, I mentioned above the theological-doctrinal dimension of not so much the post-synodal provisions as the exhortation to be proclaimed. In this context, academic theology has a prominent role to play. It is from the academic discussion that conclusions are born and, in a sense, mark paths of fidelity to the Gospel and its proclamation to the contemporary man.

The community of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław has been undertaking this assignment for over fifty years. In February last year, we celebrated the golden anniversary of the Decree of the Congregation for Catholic Education recognising the Academic School of Theology in Wrocław as a continuation of the pre-war Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Wrocław. In the same year, our journal celebrated its silver jubilee. We are continually striving to raise our scientific standards, as evidenced by the constant presence of the “Wrocław Theological Review” on the List of Scored Journals

published by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The journal was also on the List announced on July 3, 2019, gaining 20 points. We owe this state of art primarily to the resilient activity of our scientific community. The result is the issue that we are now giving to the Readers.

It contains articles by our scientists as well as by researchers from Poland and abroad. Remarkably, we have placed two works authored by the former and present dignitaries of the Holy See first. These articles set forth ways of understanding theology as a science. The adoption of this paradigm results in undertaking a theological consideration on selected biblical issues, which can be found in the first part of this issue. Since the Bible is the soul of theology, it is natural to initiate a reflection on contemporary issues of fundamental and dogmatic theology, which is included in the second section. The work of pastoral theology and even canonical law and history of the Church are the practical application of the issues raised by the doctrine of the Church. We also do not lack reflection on philosophical issues. Theology practised in the academic dimension is also based on discussions with other researchers; therefore, as usual, we publish a section with reviews of domestic and foreign books.

We are pleased to present to our Readers the next issue of "Wrocław Theological Review" in English. It was enabled by the fact that our editorial team had won the competition in two projects held by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. We hope that in this way our periodical will blossom out not only in Poland but also abroad.

Fr. Sławomir Stasiak
Editor-in-chief