

SUMMARY

The whole current issue of „Ethos” is devoted to the oeuvre of the Polish poet, Cyprian Norwid (19th century) and its relevance in our times both in the context of the moral – social turning point and the ethos of modern arts. Scientific supervision over the issue was exercised by Professor Irena Sławińska.

The central problems of the conception of the issue are introduced by the text *Neither Captivity, Nor Freedom...* written by the editor in chief. Norwid is shown here as an evangelical poet. The message of Norwid’s poetry can be read in modern Poland and Europe from the perspective of the Gospels, and especially of Christ’s words about the liberation of man by truth. The moral effort of the nation, inspired by the Solidarity, has brought a victory – socio-political liberation from the communist oppression – by the force of truth about man, his labour and justice. However, today the value of this victory seems to be threatened in several domains of social life. In many cases freedom is being separated from truth and is to serve the convenience of individuals, as for instance in the opposition against the bill about conceived life. Norwid’s writings (the poem entitled *Królestwo (Kingdom)* is mentioned in this context) constitute a warning and a reminder that freedom is not won for ever. Freedom and the dignity of man and the nation, connected with this freedom, are to be defended every day, by protecting the truth of human life and its sense.

The evangelical and moral context of values constitutes the essence of the writings of the Polish poet. The present-day relevance of the „Norwidian triad” of „beauty – labour – resurrection”, has already been noticed by Pope John Paul II and it is recalled in this issue by a quoted fragment of his address directed to the artists and men of letters during his fourth pilgrimage to his Fatherland in 1991.

The main part of the present issue of „Ethos” contains two blocks of articles and results of a survey questionnaire sent by the editors to distinguished specialists in Norwid’s writings in Poland and abroad. The first one of the two blocks of articles is entitled *The Christian Poet*. It contains texts emphasizing the evangelical-religious character of the poet’s writings. Thus, on the example of Norwid’s dramas, Prof. Irena Sławińska presents the poet’s defence of Europe’s Christian roots. Alina Merdas RSCJ discusses Norwid’s attitude towards the Church as well as his vision of Christianity which goes beyond the traditional understanding and experiencing religion. Rich theological meanings in Norwid’s poetry are discovered by Fr. Antoni Dunajski in his article.

The title of the second block of articles, *For the Truth of Poetry and Man*, refers to the other supreme value present in Norwid’s writings, besides the Gospels. It begins with a paper by Jadwiga Puzynina, a short but decisive monograph study in the meaning of the term „truth” and the functions of this value in the poet’s writings. The ethical dimensions of Norwid’s writings are examined in two subsequent studies. Józef Fert analyses the exact references of the poetry of the author of *Vade-mecum* to the primary addressee, that is, man’s conscience, while Jacek Leociak discusses the ethical aspects of the conception of language contained in the poet’s writings. Norwid’s understanding of the value of Fatherland and patriotism and some references of this understanding to the philosophy of Karol Wojtyła (the theory of participation) are examined by Ewa Podrez. The essay by Stanisław Grygiel, published in this issue in the section entitled *Thinking about Fatherland* also takes up Norwid’s understanding of patrio-

tism against a broader religious – cultural background, beginning with the Old Testament up till modern times.

The survey of „Ethos”, entitled *Norwid Today*, contains twenty four contributions. They make up a multifarious mosaic of attitudes towards Norwid’s poetry, drama, prose and philosophical texts. The contributions most often take up three aspects of Norwid’s oeuvre: the ethos of life and poetry; answers to the questions of today; and the problem of Norwid’s reception in Poland and abroad. Most of the contributions stress not only Norwid’s „modernity” and universality, but also a conviction that for us, the poet’s „late grandsons”, the work of Poland’s „fourth bard” is still living.

An interview with Professor Stefan Sawicki, a Norwid specialist from the Catholic University of Lublin and editor of a journal „Studia Norwidiana” was conducted by Tomasz Soldenhoff. The interview centres around the subject of religious values in culture, the subject which, to a large extent, covers Norwid’s writings and ideas.

The sections which supplement this issue of „Ethos” are also connected with its monographic subject and, more generally, with the domain of the ethos of the arts. The section *Notes and Reviews* contains a presentation of the issues of the journal „Studia Norwidiana”, published so far at the Catholic University of Lublin (by Krzysztof Kopczyński). Antoni Czyż reviews a book by Krzysztof Dybciak on the subject of *K. Wojtyła and literature*, while Bernadetta Juras – a text book in the field of the philosophy of the art of letters by Fr. Józef Tischner. Andrzej Sulikowski writes in defence of Adam Mickiewicz in a polemic with an article by Ewa Thompson published in „Znaki Czasu”, while Fr. Jerzy Szymik defends Christian values in his critique of the contemporary trend of „destructive” cinema, on the example of the 8th Warsaw Film Festival.

Most accounts in the section *Reports* are also connected with the subject of C. Norwid. Particular reports concern: the activities of three „schools” of Norwid studies in Poland, in Lublin, Warsaw and Poznań (by Zbigniew Poleszuk); work on the preparation of the dictionary of Norwid’s language carried out under the supervision of Prof. J. Puzynina at Warsaw University (by Teresa Dobrzyńska); a scientific conference devoted to the concepts of „wholeness” and „conscientiousness” in Norwid (by Jacek Leociak) and an exhibition of Norwid’s drawings organized by the Gallery of the Plastic Stage of the KUL (by Jacek Urbański). The section ends with a report (written by Fathers Krzysztof Martwicki and Janusz Nawrocki) on a theological symposium on the subject of the values of love, sexuality and celibacy that was held in the Higher Seminary in Plock.

The issue end with the regular section *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* which contains a chronicle of the fourteenth year of the pontificate prepared by Maria Filipiak and biographical sketches of the authors of the main contributions to the current issue of „Ethos”.

Translated by Leszek S. Kolek