

SUMMARY

The phenomenon of „Solidarity”, regarded as an expression of the Polish current of social transformations, which has initiated the collapse of Marxism in Eastern Europe, continues to fascinate the public opinion of the world. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of „Solidarity” coming into being, „Ethos” is publishing studies which discuss the origin of the movement, its development and present state. The choice of this subject has been motivated by the need of expressing the anxiety about the preservation of the authentic values which constituted the foundations of the process of the emergence and consolidation of the „attitude of solidarity”. For that reason the section entitled „The Ethos of Solidarity” points to the relations between „Solidarity” and the teaching of John Paul II (Rocco Buttiglione).

„So that Poland be Poland...

2 + 2 must always make four” – proclaimed Solidarity posters in the streets of Polish cities. The attitude of caring about truth in the complicated social, political and cultural problems quite univocally determined the already historical contribution of „Solidarity” (discussed, among others, by bp. Tadeusz Gocłowski, Fr Franciszek Kampka, Tadeusz Mazowiecki) to the international situation (Fr Francesco Ricci) and to the cultural situation (Ireneusz Krzemiński).

The section entitled „The Epic of Solidarity” contains responses to a questionnaire sent by the editors to various leading representatives of Polish social and cultural life; among others, they include statements by Maciej Iłowiecki, Andrzej Micewski, Fr Józef Tischner, Jerzy Kropiwnicki.

Since the truth of programme declarations is ultimately verified in human choices and in life attitudes, in the section of „Testimonies” we present the person of the Senator of the Republic of Poland, Adam Stanowski, who died in 1990. Particularly significant are his statements delivered on the forum of the John Paul II Institute about the social structures of sin.

Social problems constitute the subject of the section devoted to commentaries on the social encyclicals of John Paul II, „*Laborem exercens*” and „*Sollicitudo rei socialis*”. The contributions in the section consist of papers presented at a symposium organized by the Institute of John Paul II at the Catholic University of Lublin in 1989.

Another plane of the verification of the solidarity assumptions may be exemplified by the attempt of ordering state legislation in respect to the most fundamental law, that is, by the work of formulating the new constitution of the country. The section entitled „Concerning the Axiology of the Constitution” discusses its preliminary assumptions (Zygmunt Ziemiński, Marian Kallas, Wiktor Osiatyński, Stanisław Krukowski), fundamental principles (Andrzej Ajnenkiel,

Alicja Grześkowiak) and axiological problems (Zdzisław Kędzia, Fr Tadeusz Styczeń SDS, and the statement of the position adopted by the Episcopate of Poland).

The attitude appropriate for the radical and responsible treatment of the solidarity principle is exemplified, among others, by the efforts undertaken to secure a legal protection for unborn children. The section entitled „Solidarity in the Fight for Freedom – Solidarity in the Fight for Life” contains submissions by Fr Jerzy Buxakowski and Fr Tadeusz Styczeń, delivered on the forum of the Committees of the Polish Parliament. The safeguarding of the democratic right to live finds its necessary complementation in the right to freedom. The events of the year 1990 in the history of our brotherly Lithuanian nation provided an opportunity for the Editors of „Ethos” to appeal to the Polish government to support the new democracy and state sovereignty of Lithuania. Appropriate documents concerning this matter are published in this section.

The traditional section of „Notes and Reviews” has been devoted to publications about social-economic problems. Apart from a review of Lech Wałęsa’s book „The Road of Hope” (Krystian Wojaczek), the section discusses, among others, the problems of the relations between morality and politics (Jan Feliks Gross), an evaluation of capitalism and its effects on the life of individuals (Tomasz Mickiewicz, Piotr Leśniak), and attempts of summing up the achievements of Solidarity (Tadeusz Madała, Fr Franciszek Kampka, Anna Truskolaska).

The section of „Reports” presents accounts of two scientific sessions organized at the Catholic University of Lublin in 1990, and devoted to the role of laity in the Church (Fr Józef Wróbel) and to the situation of the Catholics in the Soviet Union (Arkadiusz Jabłoński).

The issue is closed with an account of the sixth pilgrimage of John Paul II to Africa (Fr Marian Balwierz) and a bibliography of the Pope’s pronouncements about Solidarity (Krystyna Borowczyk, Maria Filipiak).

Translated by *Leszek Kolek*