

SUMMARY

The current issue of „Ethos” is dedicated to crisis in modern moral theology. As stated in the *From the Editors* introduction, the essence of that crisis is unsettlement between freedom and objective truth about human nature in the theological concept of man. Overstressing freedom of human conscience leads to relativism of moral norms and, in the ecclesiastical dimension, to weakening the role of Church Teaching. One of the well-known signs of such theological attitude was „Cologne Declaration” questioning the authority of the Pope and the Church Teaching. John Paul’s II Institute (Lublin Catholic University) dedicated to these issues a special scientific session in August 1991, entitled *Human Being: Freedom – Conscience – Nature*. The current issue of „Ethos” includes a complete report on that subject.

The session documents were divided into three parts. The documents are preceded by *The Introduction to the Session* (Fr T. Styczeń), in which the director of John Paul’s II Institute points out the main philosophical and theological areas where a decisive role belongs to a concept of man or a connection between freedom and truth or absolutizing value of freedom. In the part entitled *Conscience and Truth* Fr A. Szostek and J. Seifert analyse relation of conscience and its practical function to the discovery of truth.

The part entitled *Person and Nature* covers the literature on interpretation of human being from the metaphysical point of view. J. Crosby discusses the problem of accidentality, H. Seidl writes about the problem of existence and life while R. Buttiglione refers to the problem of signal character of man’s body.

The *Conscience and Authority* section points at the theological issue of human being and Church dimensions. Rev. J. Bajda shows us what is crucial for that dimension – value of offering oneself which is the redemptive sacrifice of Christ. Rev. L. Melina analyses, in a broad study, the relation of human conscience to the Church authority and the dangers connected with falsifying that relation. Bp K. Krenn uncovers Church theology transcendentalism to the social area, the area of human rights defence and economic as well as political concepts. He warns us against the reduction of religious life to those areas only. The lectures, together with the section entitled *Discussion Report* are accomplished by rev. D. Hilla’s article, showing a concept of human being as moral theology rule indicated in Karol Wojtyła’s and present Pope’s, John Paul II, works. In the article which sums up session’s topics and starts the theme of this year Bishops’ Synod, Fr. T. Styczeń diagnoses a nowadays crisis of consciences and appeals for finding a truth of man being a basis of right conscience. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, through the clear-sighted analysis of connection between conscience and truth, shows the essential guilt of contemporary man which is not exactly false conscience oriented but rather focuses on neglecting a role of truth for conscience in a way it loses its real moral attitude. A fragment of the speech given at the inauguration of 1991/1992 academic year by Lublin Catholic University Rector, rev. S. Wielgus, concludes the whole section.

The crucial theological theme in this issue of „Ethos” is referred to by another section entitled *Theological Polemics*, being continuation of the discussion evoked by „Cologne Declaration” (see „Ethos” No. 8/1989).

In the same issue of „Ethos” such theologians as rev. W. Brandmüller, rev. L. Scheffczyk and Fr A. Laun argue about „Declaration” circle theologians’ point of view.

The moral theology crisis is also emerged in every issue of „Ethos” sections. In the *Thinking Fatherland* section rev. M. Brzozowski inserts an essay touching, in a personal way, on Polish catholic roots. In the *Notes and Reviews* part most of reviewed publications are connected with

theological subject of this issue. The crisis in theology is especially reflected in reviews by Fr T. Styczeń, rev. J. Bajda, rev. A. Marcol, rev. J. Mroczkowski and rev. W. Gubała. The other reviews (by rev. K. Gózdź, rev. M. Kowalczyk and Fr W. Życiński) present the works of modern Polish theologians like these of rev. Cz. Bartnik and of Fr S. C. Napiórkowski. The last in this section is the review (M. Chuda) of USA TV series *Twin Peaks*. The *Bibliography* section is devoted to the statements of John Paul II, gathered by M. Filipiak and referring to moral theology problems.

Current events constitute the rest of the issue's contents. The section of *Reports* presents international scientific session Theological Congress of Middle-East Europe, organised at Lublin Catholic University in 1991 (rev. A. Wierzbicki)

The *Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* section focuses on the talk with the American social philosopher Michael Novak (reprint from „Studi Sociali”) regarding the newest encyclic of John Paul II entitled *Centesimus annus*. One can also find here publication (C. Taracha) about phenomenon of pilgrimages to Compostela in Spain from the point of view of Pope's teaching on the roots of christian Europe.

The issue is closed with the *Notes about Authors* containing short biographies of articles' authors.

Transl. *Grażyna Kania*