

SUMMARY

The whole current issue is devoted to the problem of the ethos of youth (*For the Ethos of the Young*), especially of Polish youth. What values are most highly esteemed by the young people of our times? Which values should be pointed out and advocated to the youth? What did the axiological and ethical transformations of the youth, connected with the political and social alterations of recent years, consist in? What personal and institutional authorities can constitute patterns to follow for contemporary youth?

These are some of the questions which the current issue of „Ethos” attempts to answer. The introductory article *From the Editors* outlines the most general perspectives of the situation in which the youth find themselves in contemporary world. The answer to the question about the ultimate foundation of the perfection of life – which the young people are entering – is to be found in the Gospels. „Master, what good must I do to win eternal life?” (Mt 19, 16). This question, posed two thousand years ago in the land of Palestine, has initiated a model meeting of God with a young human being, with every young person who attempts to effectively and in a worthy manner design the perspective of life in front of him or her. A regular column of „Ethos” contains an excerpt from a homily, delivered by John Paul II in 1991 during the 6th International Day of Youth, at Jasna Góra, Częstochowa, in which the Pope also points to Christ as to Him, Who brought the flame of living faith and the sense of life. In a special way, Christ’s call is addressed to young people.

The main block of articles consists of three thematic sections. The section dealing with philosophical, ethical and theological values of the period of youth is entitled: *Youth – a Dimension of Society*. Fr Jerzy Bajda outlines a metaphysical and theological interpretation of values which are given to the human person in that period of life. Jan Góra OP uncovers a new, „young face” of the Church whose vision has been transmitted by Pope John Paul II to the youth of the world at a meeting with them in August 1991 in Częstochowa. Wanda Półtawska discusses the complex and perplexing sphere of the erotic life of young people from the theological–ethical point of view. The section ends with an article by an American philosopher, Stanley Hauerwas, concerning the ideal and practice of the university ethos, especially the treatment of the value of truth by professors and students.

The second section, *Youth – What are you Like?*, has a descriptive character, mainly sociological-psychological. Two articles examine the attitude of youth towards various values. Fr Leon Dyczewski undertakes the problem of the system of values of Polish youth, while Fr Roman Jusiak and Franciszka W. Wawro describe the transformations in the choices of values of the youth on the basis of recent opinion polls. The article by Fr Janusz Mariański analyses the degree and character of the religiosity of Polish youth. Bartłomiej Dobroczyński presents

new cultural phenomena, particularly attractive to young people (e.g. the New Age), and asks questions about the attitude of the Catholic Church towards these phenomena.

The section entitled **Creators, Educators, Authorities**, constitutes in a large extent a positive proposition of personal models and attitudes in contemporary world. Katarzyna Olbrycht reveals the pedagogical dimension of the meetings of John Paul II with the young. The educational model represented by the Pope is based mainly on open pedagogy which assumes active participation of both the educators and the educated in the educational process. Andrzej Madej OMI describes his pastoral experiences from his work with youth. Two texts deal with the „Light-Life” movement, a religious community of the youth which has played an important formative role during the period of the communist rules and is still playing a significant role in this domain. Fr Henryk Bolczyk recalls the person of the creator of the movement, Fr Franciszek Blachnicki, and Ewa Kusz presents a vision of education realized in the formative activities of the „Light-Life” movement. Mieczysław Wierzbowski takes up the problems of the road towards sainthood in marriage on the example of the late Jerzy Ciesielski, husband, father, and also candidate to canonization. The section ends with an article by a historian, Marian M. Drozdowski, who examines the differences between the social role of an authority (Józef Piłsudski, Roman Dmowski, Ignacy Paderewski and others) in pre-War Poland and the role of such an authority today.

In the current issue of „Ethos”, the theme of youth also dominates in the standing column **Thinking About Fatherland**. Stanisław Broniewski, a distinguished activist of Polish scouting, discusses the values most precious during his youth and tries to understand the difficult conception of fatherland of contemporary youth.

Discussions and Reviews, another standing column in the issue, contains reviews of which many also concern the young groups in society. The book by P. Soldi (reviewed by Fr Stanisław Mojek) speaks about a young Italian Saint, Pier Giorgio Frassati. The circle of marriage and family is the subject of such books as *Dziecko we współczesnej Polsce* [The Child in Contemporary Poland; two volumes] (reviewed by Fr Waldemar Taracha) and the guidebooks by K. Meissner for young people asking about love and life with another person (Małgorzata A. Fajkowska). The situation of classical languages in a secondary school is discussed by Andrzej Sulikowski, while the ethos of the university – by Irena Sławińska (on the example of the lectures by J. H. Newman, *The Idea of the University*, recently published in Polish). Books commemorating two important figures of educators and pastors of Polish youth, Fr Franciszek Blachnicki and Fr Mieczysław Brzozowski, are reviewed by Michał Ręka and Fr Alfred Wierzbicki. The subjects of the situation of the Church in contemporary world and the defence of the life of the unborn, that is, very topical issues, appear in subsequent books discussed in this section, namely, Card. J.-M. Lustiger's *Wybór Boga* [The Choice of God] (reviewed by Fr Jarosław Merecki) and T. Ślipko's *SJ Za czy przeciw życiu* [For or Against Life] (reviewed by Fr Andrzej Szostek). As usually, the sec-

tion ends with a discussion of one of the modern mass media; this time it is a review of F. Zeffirelli's TV movie, *Jesus of Nazareth* (by Wojciech Chudy).

The regular section of **Reports** contains an account from a conference on the science of religion which was held at the Catholic University of Lublin in December 1992 (by Fr Piotr Moskal), and a discussion (by Fr Jan Palusiński) of the idea of a festival of religious songs – „Sacrosong”.

In the section **The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World**, Patrycja Mikulska presents a penetrating, though very personal, view of the pontificate of John Paul II by André Frossard, a French writer and thinker. The section also contains an open letter of a German Evangelical, doctor of medicine, Siegfried Ernst, chairman of the European Action of Doctors, addressed to those Catholic theologians who contest the teaching and pastoral practice of John Paul II. Ernst's letter defends the People's attitude and expresses support for it.

Bibliography, made up by Maria Filipiak contains – in keeping with the profile of this issue – the speeches by Pope John Paul II addressed to young people. The issue ends, as always, with biographic notes on contributors published in the sections with articles.

Translated by Leszek S. Kolek