

SUMMARY

The present issue of the “Ethos” quarterly is devoted to the ethos of the different dimensions of love: from eros to agape. The articles included in it refer to the idea – expressed by John Paul II in his book *The Gift and the Mystery* – that Love should be introduced into human love. This postulate is recalled in the text *From the Editors*, which also draws our attention to the natural dynamism present in betrothal love, leading a couple from marriage towards a family. So understood love, that is love as a “free and unselfish gift of self” constitutes the way of the fulfillment of the human person.

An extract from John Paul II’s catechesis *The Lord Created Them a Man and a Woman* is a reflection on the biblical Song of Songs, pointing to a specific “body language” which joins the betrothed in wedlock. As the Holy Father stresses, this “body language” directs them to each other and lets them live through their mutual closeness.

The article by Tadeusz Styczeń, SDS, refers to the mentioned catechesis in emphasizing the fact that the mutual gift from man and woman is possible thanks to the gift from still another Giver – therefore their mutual love also finds its expression in gratefulness to the One who is their Father, namely to God.

The first set of articles, entitled *Source of Life and Love*, is devoted to the supernatural dimension of human love. In the first text Fr Zdzisław Pawłowski analyses the language which is used in the Holy Scripture in reference to the experience of love, and he points to the functions of this language in shaping the relationship between the chosen people and God. Fr Józef Kudasiewicz in turn shows that Jesus is presented in the New Testament as a new Moses, giving His people a new law – the law of love – which finds its full expression in the Sermon on the Mount. Fr Jerzy Bajda reflects on the teaching on marriage included in Paul’s Letter to Ephesians, pointing, among others, to the fact that already at that time this teaching was opposed by the gentiles. Concluding this part, Renate and Norbert Martin refer to the teaching of John Paul II in order to consider different dimensions of the presence of the persons of the Holy Trinity in marital life and in the family.

The following set of articles is entitled *The Christian Eros*. It opens with an article by Marek Marczewski, who summarizes the teaching of the Holy Scripture and of the Magisterium on marriage, and shows that marriage constitutes “the first sacrament”, that it expresses the vocation put by the Creator in the human nature, and that it reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church. Ludmiła Grygiel in turn draws on the example of sister Faustine in analysing the mystical dimension of love, in which – owing to God’s grace – man is admitted to particular closeness to Love itself. Then Renata and Krzysztof Stachewicz attempt a phenomenological description of the essence of betrothal love, also taking into consideration some elements of its ethos: loyalty, faithfulness, responsibility and unselfishness. Fr Kazimierz Bukowski takes up the same problem

referring to the thought of a French personalist, Maurice Nédoncelle. The two articles concluding this section refer to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas: Małgorzata Kowalewska points to the timeliness of St. Thomas's conception of emotions while Arkadiusz Gudaniec describes the problem of unselfishness in the different types of love analysed by St. Thomas Aquinas.

The next section is entitled *Human Love at the Crossroads*. In the first article Karol Tarnowski speaks about the event of Salvation, pointing to its being free initiative of God, which has the logic of love at its basis. Then Fr Ireneusz Mroczkowski writes about the role of the body for the identity of the human person. Fr Roman Rogowski points to the disintegration of human love in contemporary culture, which is manifested in breaking the bond between sex, eros and agape. The philosophical foundations of this process are described by Antoni Szwed, who shows how romantic philosophy of life, which replaces reason with imagination, leads to self-enslavement of the subject. Finally Krzysztof Murawski makes a sociological and ethical analysis of the mechanisms of demoralization in the system of real socialism.

The final set of articles is entitled *At the Roots of the Social Dimension of Love*, and it opens with an article by Wanda Póltawska showing the need for bringing up young people to cherish the virtue of chastity. Krystyna Ostrowska points to the fact that the idea of replacing sexual education, a school subject whose objective is making young people prepared for family life, with so-called sexual instruction aims at separating sexual life from the family context as well as from the social one. In the long run it leads to axiological association of the sexual sphere with mere individual free choice. The cultural and political context and the consequences of the sexual revolution in the communist countries as well as in the USA are considered in the articles by Marek Czachorowski and Joanna Petry Mroczkowska.

The section *Interviews of the "Ethos"* comprises Fr Tadeusz Styczeń's and Fr Jarosław Merecki's talk to Vittorio Possenti, professor of moral philosophy in Venice.

In the section *Thinking about Fatherland ...* Andrzej Nowak reflects on the danger to Poland's future resulting from the fact that many Poles reject the feeling of obligation which springs from the bond between the many generations constituting the national community. Being Polish becomes ballast to them instead, or even a cause of shame in confrontation with the "modern" world.

In the section *Notes and Reviews* Patrycja Mikulska writes about the book *Podwójny płomień. Miłość i erotyzm* [Double Flame. Love and Eroticism] by Octavio Paz, a Mexican writer who died this year. Krzysztof Stachewicz reviews a book by Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, well-known Austrian ethologist, entitled *Miłość i nienawiść* [Love and Hate]. Piotr H. Kieniewicz, MIC, writes about a book by William E. May *Marriage: The Rock On Which the Family Is Built*, devoted to the theology of the family. Fr Tadeusz Styczeń in turn reviews a book by D. O'Brian *The Hidden Pope*, wondering whether antisemitism was a rule in Poland or merely an exception. Paweł Przywara writes about Ph. K. Dick's novel *Przez ciemne zwierciadło* [A Scanner Darkly]. Finally, Dorota Chabrajska reviews the 15th anniversary issue of the "Crisis" monthly.

The *Reports* section comprises a report by Fr Romuald J. Weksler-Waszkinel on the symposium "Roots of Antijudaism in the Christian Environment" held in the Vatican last year. Fr Piotr Pawliszak writes on the symposium organized at the Catholic University of Lublin on the 80th anniversary of the study of sociology there.

The standing column *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* includes the addresses delivered during the symposium organized by the John Paul II Institute at the Catholic University of Lublin on pope John Paul II's 78th birthday, on the 30th anniversary of pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae vitae*, and on the 20th anniversary of John Paul II's pontificate. It opens with an address by Fr Stanisław Wielgus, Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, who stresses the historical significance of the present pontificate. In the following address, Abp Józef Życiński, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Lublin, points to the timeliness of the message of this pontificate. The lecture delivered by Bp Andreas Laun from Salzburg is devoted to Paul VI's

encyclical *Humanae vitae*. The author describes the reception of the mentioned encyclical in the Catholic theology pointing to its aptness and to the timeless character of its message. The section concludes with the Final Address delivered by Fr Tadeusz Styczeń, Director of the John Paul II Institute, and with the text of the birthday telegram sent to the Holy Father.

In the section *Through the Prism of the Ethos* Wojciech Chudy writes about the threat of spiritual emptiness resulting from today's growth, also in our country, of the mentality of consumption.

The standing column *Bibliography* (by Maria Filipiak) comprises John Paul II's addresses on eros and agape. The volume concludes with *Notes about the Authors*.