

Theology 2020+. Where, how and what for?

Summary

The postmodern West with its civilisational and ideological context has compelled theology to confirm its identity, position and responsibilities in the scientific and academic world. Among the numerous standpoints, particular authority is vested in the International Theological Commission and in the proposals presented by the previous popes: John Paul II and Benedict XVI. For both the pontiffs, an encounter of the cognitive capabilities of faith within the Church resulting from grace with the truth-oriented reason gives rise to a form of theology, seen as an effort put in searching for and finding God, who manifests Himself as the Saviour. Such theology requires courage since it contests the liberal and atheistic concept of the autonomous reason and the corresponding technocratic model of a university. Persisting – frequently in the face of ostracism - at European universities and drawing on their latest observations, theology safeguards their objectivity, holistic vision of reality and rationality serving righteousness and wisdom.

Key words: faith, reason, university, science, truth, cognition, Europe, postmodernity.

Psalm Collects – *orationes super psalmos*

Summary

According to Article 112 of “The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours” of 1970, the document is supposed to include prayers relating to each particular psalm in accordance with an age-old tradition. Regrettably, this official initiative announced more than fifty years ago is yet to be undertaken. Nevertheless, the very project of preparing such collected orations was meant to emphasise the Christological value of the psalms. In the light of the above mentioned Article 112 of “The General Instruction”, this treatise bears resemblance to the early Christian tradition of practising the *orationes super psalmos*, which in turn inspire the Post-Conciliar Study Groups to draw up a new collection of orations on the psalms. Although the aforementioned collection has not been published so far, there exist orations translated into such languages as Polish or Italian. The article concludes with the explanation offered by the relator (J. Pascher) responsible for the preparation of the official collection of orations on the psalms justifying the lack of implementation of Article 112 of “The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours.”

Key words: *orationes super psalmos*.

The Value of Community Building as a Basis of a Person's Trust

Summary

This article explores the value of trust in community building. So delineated a purpose was carried into effect in three stages. First, the basis of the attitude of trust was shown. It manifests itself above all in the creation of man by God in His own image and likeness. This entails man's abandonment to God. Another aspect to be taken up is the redemption of man by Christ. It was Christ in the act of redemption that provided man with the proof of God's infinite love towards him thus inviting him to place his trust in Him.

The basis for the attitude of trust guides one towards the presentation of its nature. The respective analyses have resulted in terming the attitude of trust as man's unconditional reliance on God and perseverance in His presence. An approach like this is not static. On the contrary, it is subject to progression. Man's growing confidence in God deepens depending on the acknowledgment of his personal relation to Him. This corresponds to the degree of a person's humility and interaction aka prayer.

The last point raised concerns the value of the attitude of trust as far as personal relationships in society are concerned. Directed by confidence in God, man becomes increasingly steadfast in perfecting his own humanness. Subsequently, a person, internally reborn, is developing an ever greater sensitivity to his/her neighbours and readiness for meeting their needs. So understood an attitude constitutes a principal factor of a person's social openness. Its value is bound to manifest itself in three dimensions: familial (underlying inter-personal relations among the family members), social (contributing to rendering social life more humane), and ecological (the maintenance of the attitude of trust while respecting the natural environment).

Key words: confidence, human dignity, spiritual life, respect for the human being, love for one's neighbour.

Jesus Christ – the Ultimate Sense

Summary

The contemporary crisis of and the accompanying quest for sense has prompted Catholic theology of the 20th century to pay considerable attention to Jesus Christ as the ultimate sense and its very source. Pope John Paul II in his encyclical letter *Fides et ratio* explored this idea indicating a possibility of and need for its expansion. This paper aims at outlining the perspective which renders Jesus Christ the embodiment of the ultimate sense. An attempt is being made to highlight the issue in the context of contemporary anthropological transformations falling under the influence of the myth of Narcissus. In order to face these changes along with Christ, it is necessary to look at such fundamental questions as: man's solitude, the significance of work within a community as well as the exercising of power perceived as ministry. Once examined from the Christological perspective, the above mentioned points can lead to making "more sense" of each and every human activity. Clearly, this is likely to result in a deepened and more meaningful contemplation of the burning issues regarding sin, suffering and death whose sense is in constant need of reexamination.

Key words: sense, John Paul II, Jesus Christ, reexamination.

St. John as the Beloved Apostle of the Lord in the Light of the Sergei Bulgakov's Thought

Summary

Sergei Bulgakov (1871-1944) is one of the greatest contemporary thinkers of the Eastern Orthodox Christianity. One of the ideas characteristic of his theology concerns the existence of «double primacy» in the apostolic college: the more external one of St. Peter's (cf. Mt 16: 17-19) and its more internal counterpart embodied by the faith and love of St. John (cf. Jn 21: 22-23). The preeminence of the two apostles reveals their close relation to each other on the one hand, and the mutual independence independence on the other. Peter constitutes, above all, the foundation of the hierarchical structure of the Church whereas John provides the rationale behind the foundation of the prophetic ministry in the Church. This idea was presented by Sergei Bulgakov in a short publication brought out in Paris in 1926: "St. Peter and St. John. The First Two of the Apostles". The purpose of this article is to present the Russian theologian's inspiration for this important and interesting topic.

Key words: Sergei Bulgakov, Orthodox theology, John the Apostle, primacy.

Christological Symbolism of the Church Portal

Summary

The main entrance to the church has the symbolic significance. The Christian neoplatonism also shows this dimension. The gate leading to the sacred space symbolizes especially Jesus Christ, but it symbolizes the Mother of God, the apostle and the Church too. Christology is also present in the subject of portal decoration, in particular the portal of medieval cathedrals. Jesus Christ is not only the Gate to Heaven, but he is also – represented in this decoration – the Saviour–Pantocrator, and his cross is the key to Paradise.

Key words: Jesus Christ, religious building, gate, portal, symbolism.

The Carmelite Order as Portrayed in the Chapter Orations by Cantius of St. Julian

Summary

Cantius of St. Julian (1714-1760) – a little-known 17th century Carmelite monk of the Greater Poland's Province of the Most Holy Sacrament Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel *Strictior Observantia* is credited with the authorship of the orations issued in print and preserved until today. It is the ones written and published in Latin that are analysed in the article in terms of the information regarding the Carmelite Order, its spiritual and intellectual tradition and Cantius' fellow monks. One can also gain insight into the Province's monasteries as well as Cantius himself. The biography of Cantius of St. Julian is preceded by a brief presentation of his oratorical output. This is followed by the examination of the specificity of the chapter orations, which in turn paves the way for the analysis of the four consecutive texts: *Capitolium extra Romam*, *Campus electoralis in Carmelo*, *Serenissima invictissima potentissima*, and *Novum emergens*. The final mention of chronograms serves to depict Cantius' mindset in the light of his contemporaries' way of thinking. The texts perused constitute a mine of information concerning minor facts about little-known details with respect to the history and tradition of the Carmelite Order as well as the Carmelite monks in charge of its Greater Poland Province.

Key words: *Strictior Observantia*, orations, the Carmelite Order, Cantius of St. Julian, monk.