

**From Impiety to Piety.  
Benedict XVI's Theological Project for Europe**

Summary

As a discipline broadening the cognitive potential of mind with the perspective of faith, theology appears to be an invaluable tool for diagnosing the situation of the contemporary world and of the axiological evaluation of the civilisational processes taking place. A theological judgement needs to “demonstrate the error”, yet the task entails constructive constations. From a theological standpoint, such sombre signs of the times prevalent in today’s Europe as atheism, agnosticism, ethical relativism, epistemological skepticism, mistaken ideas of freedom, and the deformation of assumptions and concepts regarding a democratic state call for a Christian response. This response should be founded on the recognition of the reality of sin and the assumption of both personal and social responsibility for evil in the world. It should also emanate from the restoration of God’s absolute priority in all walks of human activity. The only source of hope is to be found in a person’s true conversion and humble quest of God. This is seen as a permanent way of life, of thinking and of acting shaping not only people’s personal and social lives but also their artistic, scientific and political activity. In order to salvage its cultural and spiritual heritage, a postmodern Europe seems to be in dire need of a powerful Gospel message. Harsh and acute as the message might initially seem, its pride-hurting power is bound to yield life-giving fruit in the end.

**Key words:** God, culture, Europe, theology, conversion, truth, faith, freedom, democracy, piety, impiety, atheism, agnosticism.

**The Christology of the Council of Ephesus.  
An Analysis of the Formula of Union**

Summary

The beginning of the 5th century AD sees the eruption of yet another dispute within the Church, which necessitates the convocation of a new council. The reasons stem from issues of strictly Christological nature and are bound up with establishing the ratio of the divine to the human in Jesus Christ. The Council of Ephesus provides the Formula of Union, specified and signed two years later, in 433 AD. The formula is amazing in its capability of attaining balance between the Alexandrine and Antiochene Schools despite the numerous initial controversies. This leads to a more precise description of the identity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. On the one hand, we deal with the truth about Jesus Christ’s perfect divinity. On the other hand, there emerges the truth about His perfect, unreduced humanness consisting of a reasonable soul and body. Begotten of the Father in times past in His Divinity and “in these last days” (Heb. 1:2) for us and our salvation born of the Virgin Mary as man, He is consubstantial with the Father as God and consubstantial with us as man. Since His two natures have merged, we confess one Christ, one Son, one Lord and it is in the face of this mystery that our faith in the Holy Virgin Mary is the faith in the Mother of God (Θεοτόκος).

**Key words:** The Council of Ephesus; the Formula of Union; the balance between the Alexandrine and Antiochene Schools; the identity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; perfect Divinity – perfect, unreduced humanness; the Holy Virgin Mary – Mother of God.

## The Impact of Hellenism on Judaism

### Summary

The Hellenization of Judaism occurred at the inception of Hellenism. Hellenism can be described as a result of the influence exerted by many cultures, especially the Asiatic ones, on Ancient Greek or Hellenic culture. Greece and Israel alike had come into contact with other cultures relatively early. That influence reached its pinnacle during the Babylonian captivity. In the case of Greece, it was the conquests of Alexander the Great that initiated a new stage in the country's development. Prior to this, the contact of the nation of Israel with Greek philosophy and mythology was negligent. By the 4<sup>th</sup> BC the influence of Greek culture on Judaism had encompassed all spheres of life: just as if the initially thin stream had burst its banks and turned into a flood. At the same time, the intensity and quality of the said influence underwent a number of changes emanating from the same cause. The onset of Israel's political independence from Greece coincided with the beginning of the transformation of Hellenic culture into Hellenism. Although the impact of Hellenism on Judaism was manifold, it did not produce any substantial changes in terms of faith. The translation of the Bible into Greek and the use of Greek as a language of communication did not alter the biblical way of thinking. Nor did this warp the revealed message. Judaism did not have much impact on Greek culture and, similarly, Hebrew culture was only accommodated by the Greeks with the adoption of Christianity.

**Key words:** Hellenism, Judaism, environment, Palestine, diaspora, impact, culture, the Holy Scriptures.

## Pope Francis' and Patriarch Bartholomew I's Views on the Gift of Creation

### Summary

The views of the highest hierarchs on the environmental issues are convergent to a large extent. Furthermore, their teaching is characterised by two fundamental aspects. First of all, it is marked by a great sensitivity and humility towards the gift of creation. Moreover, one can observe a genuine concern about the ontological-moral dimension of the whole nature. Also, the anthropological factor plays an overriding role as a direct influence on the actual communication with all forms of existence. Another equally important inspiration stems from the willingness to demonstrate an appropriate relationship with the created being. This responsibility rests with every human individual and every single society because of the profound interdependencies between the former and the latter. What should also be taken into account is the future and its challenges.

**Key words:** Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew I, creation, environment, nature.

## Ascetism in the Holy Spirit.

### The Integrality of Nature and Grace in the Light of Pneumatology

#### Summary

The title of the article refers to the specificity of Christian asceticism, defined as the asceticism in the Holy Spirit. Eclectic trends and transferring ascetic practices from various religions into Christianity threaten to deform the very idea of man's sanctification in the Holy Spirit. In the process of deification, it is the Paraclete who is the source of God's initiative and plan for man. With the aid of the dogmatic method as well as biblical and patristic sources, the author of the article, a dogmatic theologian, demonstrates a strict relationship between the Christian doctrine of grace and the practice of asceticism in the Holy Spirit. Ascetic practices deprived of doctrinal foundations have led to the rejection of asceticism altogether. However, the Christian doctrine of the new birth and sanctification in Christ necessitates the return to asceticism by Christians.

**Key words:** asceticism, pneumatology, the Holy Spirit, nature, grace, deification, sanctification.

## Marian Peregrinations in Western Pomerania

#### Summary

Western Pomerania is sanctified by Marian presence in the region's historical sites of veneration. Since they were destroyed in Protestant times, there arose a crying need for their reopening and establishing the new ones. Subsequently, during Bishop Kazimierz Majdański's ministry, there appeared Marian sanctuaries in Siekierki and in Szczecin. Also, four new sites of veneration (in Brzesk, Resk, Choszczno and Trzebiatów) came into being under Archbishop Marian Przykucki. These sites of veneration largely contribute to Marian devotion upheld by the presence of numerous Marian churches (279), which testify to the faith and piety of the People of God. Nevertheless, it was the wish of the faithful to encounter the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland in Her revered icon of the Jasna Góra Monastery or in that of Our Lady of Fatima. The growing Marian devotion found its full expression in the seven peregrinations of the images of the Most Holy Virgin Mary: Our Lady of Rokitno (in connection with entrusting Poland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1946), Our Lady of Częstochowa (owing to the millennial celebrations of 1961- 1966 commemorating the Baptism of Poland in 966, when uplifting the faithful during the martial law in 1982, and during the expression of thanks for the second pilgrimage of John Paul II to his homeland in 1983). Further occasions include awakening the faith in the Western Pomeranian people in their peaceful perseverance at the feet of Mary (1990-1991), the coronation of Poland's first statue of Our Lady of Fatima by Pope John Paul II (1988) as well as the inspiring of the spirit of humility in the faithful (1996).

**Key words:** Marian sanctuaries, Marian devotion, Western Pomerania,, the Archdiocese of Szczecin-Kamień, , the Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

## Theological Significance of Our Lady's Title, “Cause of our Joy” as Seen by Pope Francis

### Summary

“Cause of our Joy” is one of the titles granted by the Christian faithful to the Holy Virgin Mary. She is greeted and addressed with this name in the liturgy (Marian Missal) and in non-liturgical worship (the Litany of Loreto). Thus the joy

She experienced thanks to God can also become His own joy. This raises questions of why we call Mary the Cause of our Joy and what theological significance is hidden within the title. The article attempts to find the answers in the teaching of Pope

Francis, who emphasizes the value of Christian joy. He assigns a twofold meaning to the title: to him Mary appears as a co-originator of joy and at the same time as a model of joy for the Church. Both the aspects are examined in the article. The former indicates that Mary, through Her participation in the Son's work of salvation, contributed to the revelation of joy through the sacrifice of Her motherly heart. Christ brought us the joy of redemption owing to Her assistance. The latter portrays Mary as a guide on the paths of Christian joy. The Holy Virgin Mary teaches that true joy comes from God and is the fruit of yielding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and cooperating with the grace. It is manifested by serving one's neighbours, especially through bringing them the Gospel, the Good News, and finds its ultimate fulfillment in the glory of heaven.

**Key words:** Mary, Cause of our Joy, Marian titles, Pope Francis.

## Imperial Legislation Relating to the Eunomians' Heresy on the Basis of Book XVI of the *Theodosian Code* [*Codex Theodosianus*]

### Summary

In the first centuries of the Church history there occurred many doctrinal heresies. One of the most dangerous ones was that created by Eunomius. The Eunomians upheld an extreme form of Arianism. The subject of the article is “Emperor's Legislation Relating to the Eunomians' Heresy on the Basis of Book XVI of the *Theodosian Code [Codex Theodosianus]*”. The collection of constitutions under the Latin name of *Codex Theodosianus* includes edicts from the years 312-438. The above article consists of two parts. The first one presents both the origin and the doctrine of the Eunomian heresy. Legal acts, imperial laws and decrees concerning the Eunomians are collected and analyzed in the second part. The analysis of source texts shows the doctrine as one of the greatest threats to social life. Therefore, imperial legislation provided such legal consequences for the heresy leaders, believers and followers as a ban on meetings and teaching, confiscation of property, banishment or the withdrawal of civil rights.

**Key words:** Eunomius, the Eunomian heresy, heresies of the ancient Church, Arianism, *Codex Theodosianus*, Book XVI of the *Theodosian Code*.

## The Water of the New Creation

### Summary

The sacrament of holy baptism is referred to as “the new creation”. The blessing over the baptismal water indicates the cosmological perspectives of baptism. Drawing on biblical and patristic considerations as well as on contemporary Catholic and Orthodox theology, one can state that baptism, along with other sacraments, constitutes an exceptional area where both man and the entire universe participate in Jesus Christ’s paschal mystery. Water, in its divinity, becomes a direct vehicle of the newness of paschal life. Instilled in it in the course of God’s act of creation is the ability of being the sign of higher spiritual reality (e.g. ritual ablutions). As a result of baptismal ablution, the aforementioned reality acquires its full potential. Thanks to the mystery of the incarnation and glorification of the Saviour, baptismal water assumes a supernatural sacramental dimension, spiritual fullness and a new potential i.e. that of conveying the fullness of life: “the new creation”.

**Key words:** the blessing over baptismal water, holy baptism, cosmos.

## Neuropedagogy and Christian Upbringing

### Summary

What recently became an extremely interesting source of knowledge and scientific inspiration in various walks of human life including education is the research into human brain with its functions and plasticity. The research has been particularly fruitful in such disciplines as neurology, neurobiology and other related sciences.

Consequently, didactics and pedagogy have been enriched by what is widely known as neuroeducation, neurodidactics and – last but not least – neuropedagogy. The possibility of making use of the assumptions and inspirations provided by neuropedagogy needs to be productively explored in today’s religious education, especially regarding children and adolescents. This study will focus on the basic assumptions developed by and currently promoted in neuropedagogy. It will also address the relationship between the proposed solutions and Christian upbringing concepts.

**Key words:** neuropedagogy, Christian upbringing, religious education.

**Who is Worthy to Stand Before the Lord?****St. Thomas of Aquinas' Reply in his Commentary on Psalm 15/14/**

## Summary

With the aim of dispelling erroneous albeit widespread beliefs concerning St. Thomas Aquinas' university activity (contrary to popular opinion, he never lectured on his *Summa Theologica*, but solely on the Holy Scriptures), the introduction to the article portrays Thomas of Aquino as the author of the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures and the Psalms in particular. The study also explores St. Thomas' exegetical method and his theory of literary genres represented in the Bible. In St. Thomas's days, a professor of theology was *magister in Sacra Pagina*. This means that he dealt with the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures. The analysis of Psalm 15/14/ is divided into five stages: (1) the exposition and the structure of Psalm 15/14/, (2) the Principal Question, (3) the Answer, (4) the Reward, and (5) the Interpretation of Psalm 24/23/: 3-6 as a text parallel to Psalm 15/14. St. Thomas Aquinas' commentaries are confronted with contemporary biblical analyses. This enables us to detect the differences in the approach to the Holy Scriptures in various ages and to discern a wealth of theological-biblical and spiritual thinking of the Doctor Angelicus. His ideas are still extremely forward looking and up to date and make it possible for the Catholic Church to persist in Her teaching, morality and spirituality.

**Key words:** the Holy Scriptures, exegesis, text, the Church, law, innocence, justice, truth, deceit, reward, benediction, salvation.

***Ardere et lucerer perfectum est.*****The Motif of Death in Selected Funeral Eulogies by Fr. Florian Stablewski**

## Summary

Funeral eulogies as a literary genre has been subjected to numerous changes and fashions of the day over the centuries. In Poland, eulogies developed mainly in the Old Polish period along with the development of Sarmatian culture. As a result of the political changes at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, funeral eulogies lost their importance. Nevertheless, it seems that although they do not constitute an interesting subject matter for literary research, they should be examined from the theological perspective. The eulogies delivered during religious services include the theological content that reflects the state of faith and theology in the nineteenth century. This article presents the theme of death in selected eulogies by Fr. F. Stablewski, who was not only an outstanding pastor of the dioceses of Gniezno and Poznań and an excellent preacher, but also an illustrious theologian.

**Key words:** death, eternity, retribution, suffering, hope, holiness, sacrifice.

**A Study of *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*, the Letter of the Congregation  
for the Doctrine of the Faith of May 15, 2016  
and the Analysis of its Main Thesis on the Unity  
between Hierarchical and Charismatic Gifts**

Summary

The letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*, published two years ago, seems to have had a limited reception in Poland. With the exception of a few press notes, the document has not attracted much attention in the publications of deep theological reflection. This article is an attempt at promoting the contents of the document. The proposed reading focuses on the explanation of the merit of the main theological thesis of this document: the unity between hierarchical and charismatic gifts. The analysis confirms a well-founded reference to the Second Vatican Council and the affirmations contained therein, quotations from the fundamental sources of theology, the Bible and the Tradition of the Ancient Church. Nevertheless, the conclusion signals a lack of explanation regarding the relationship between hierarchical and charismatic gifts. This study suggests a current need for new and more profound research. The postulate concerns above all the perspective indicated by *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*: the understanding of charisms in their institutional dimension. Certain charisms require coming up with new forms of ecclesial life and hence call for new canon law regulations.

**Key words:** hierarchical gifts, charismatic gifts, new communities, the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, People of God, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

**Num. 11:1-3 as a Paradigm of the Theology of Rebellion  
in the Book of Numbers**

Summary

The wandering of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land abounds in theological motifs. The episode described by the biblical author (Num 11:1-3) can constitute a starting point for the successive descriptions of revolts in the desert. It also sums up the more elaborate fragments. It is difficult to establish the chronology of the passus in question in relation to the passages expressly dealing with the Israelites' rebellion against Yahweh. The exegetical analysis of the passus under examination can help identify further components of the stories about the Israelites' grumbling against God. The presentation of the episode's constituent parts and relating them to other excerpts aims at showing the biblical author's theological thinking as far as the revolt against God is concerned. Mention must be made of a whole spectrum of issues in order to grasp the theology of revolt as created by hagiographers in the central part of the Book of Numbers.

**Key words:** rebellion, grumbling, exegesis, narration, desert.

## **The Attitude of the Church towards Media Literacy of the Online Generation**

### Summary

Media literacy has become a crucial requirement of our times: the age of the information society. In particular, it concerns children and the youth. Born in the digital age, young people come face to face with all sorts of new communications media (the Internet, mobile networks, computer games, music players, etc.) on a daily basis. This may either contribute to or hinder their development and intellectual formation. Everything depends on the extent to which the online generation is prepared for a conscious, critical and active use of the new technologies. In order to prevent the various dangers posed by new communications media and to assist children and young people in their comprehensive development, there arises a pressing need for educating them in terms of a proper media perception and use. The article explores the issue by explaining the nature of the aforementioned education and its relation to the community of the Church. The study shows the necessity of preparing the younger generation for a responsible and wise management of new information and communications media and technologies. It also provides a valuable guide for all those responsible for young people's development and formation. It is addressed primarily to parents, educators, teachers, priests and all those who are not indifferent to the issue.

**Key words:** new media, information and communications technologies, media literacy, the online generation, the Church.

## **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God in the Mystery of Christ and of Mother of the Church**

### Summary

The study constitutes an example of contextual Mariology narrowed down to the first half of the 20th century. The Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God occupies a special place in the mystery of Christ and the Church. She is the New Creation, a Person exceptional in Her existence: She is immaculate, She is a Virgin, She is the Mother of God and She is assumed into Heaven. During the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński emphasised the crucial role of the Virgin Mary both for the Church and for every single Christian. Mary's triumph at the Council was developing gradually. This led Pope Paul VI to proclaim the Holy Virgin Mary the Mother of the Church and resulted in increased Marian veneration. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński's attitude towards the Most Holy Virgin Mary was clearly shaped by his predecessor, Cardinal August Hlond and most probably by Pope Pius XII's encyclical of 8th September 1953, "Fulgens corona" ("Radiant Crown"). Mary is a Christian teacher, witness and intermediary in fulfilling the will of God.

**Key words:** Cardinal Wyszyński, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Christ, the Church, mystery.

## **The Fall of Angels: A Study at the Frontier of Theology and Art**

### Summary

Evil comes into being along with the rebellion of angels. The fall of angels is a consequence of their free choice; this is the moment of radical and irrevocable rejection of God. The repentance of fallen angels headed by Lucifer is unobtainable. They have sinned not only with pride, but also with jealousy as pointed out by St. Thomas Aquinas. Their fall is a recurring theme in art. The fall of Lucifer is also referred to in the writings of Hildegard of Bingen. The consequences of the rebellion of angels involve, for example, turning away from the love of God, a dead faith in God, a decrease in knowledge (stemming from the revelation of mysteries), the disappearance of knowledge (as a source of love), as well as obduracy. The fall of angels also resulted in the rise of hell.

**Key words:** Angels, Lucifer – Satan, rebellion, evil, fall, hell.