

# editorial

## Dear readers.

The first issue of the journal *Caritas et Veritas* in 2015 is under the sign of "Right to life". We as the editorial board decided almost a year ago to directly as well as indirectly react with this issue to the then very live affair linked to the much discussed and controversial nature and content of a paper by JUDr. Miroslav Mitlöhner, CSc., at present already the former director of Institute of Social Work of the University Hradec Králové, called *On the Legal and Ethical Problems Linked to the Birth of a Gravely Malformed Individual* (*Journal of Medical Law and Bioethics*, 1/2014). Although the hot debate concerning this case has understandably cooled down, we believe that some of the questions which have arisen in connection with it as well as the paper itself require deeper thought and scholarly reflection. We have eventually succeeded in collecting several scholarly studies dealing either with the controversial paper itself or one of its aspects.

The first of the scholarly theses, Lukáš Novák's paper *The Affair of JUDr. Mitlöhner: Case Analysis and Broader Context*, opens the topic, describes the affair in detail and reflects on it from ethical points of view. Dominik Opatrný's paper *On the Ethical Aspects of so-called Self-Plagiarism: Or the Technology of Processing the Academic Recyclate* focuses on a specific aspect of the case – "self-plagiarism". There follow papers of psychological turn, touching on the debates concerning the value of human life and the issue of artificial termination of pregnancy – *Post-Abortion Syndrome* by the co-authors Karolina Diallo and Marie Lhotová and the paper *The Existentially Analytical Approach to Value of Life* by Marie Lhotová. To provide broader context Martina Pavelková in her paper *The Characteristic of Family and (Re-)Education in the Communist Perspective* lets us get a glimpse of the issue of conceiving morality, the human being and interpersonal relationships in communist ideology. Two further papers are devoted to the value and ethical dimension of social work – *Social Work, Democracy and Human Rights – What Follows from the Dignity of the Human Person?* by Tadeusz Kamiński and *Return to the Client: On the Contemporary Search for the Meaning of Social Work* by Michal Opatrný, Monika Flídrová and Anna Sýkorová.

We have supplemented the peer reviewed papers by two others not directly related to the issues' topic. They are the fruit of the dialogue of members of the *Work Group for Social Issues by the Czech Bishops' Conference* with the views of the outstanding Belgian writer Geert van Istendael and his paper *De parochie van Sint-Precarius* (orig. 2013). Jindřich Šrajber and Roman Míčka analyse his ideas in the paper "The Parish of St Precarius" and the View of the Social Teaching of the Church, Jakub Jinek comments and reflects on it from broader politico-philosophical perspectives in the paper *Civic Rhetoric for the Social State. On Geert van Istendael's Precarius*. The two texts are revised and peer reviewed English versions of critical commentaries published originally only in Czech together with the Czech edition of Van Istendael's paper *De parochie van Sint-Precarius*.<sup>1</sup>

"We would like to call the attention of the readers and possible authors to the newly proposed topics of the journal issues 2016/2 (The churches, migration and refugee politics: Attitudes of the churches in Europe and persecution for religious reasons in

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<sup>1</sup> Geert van ISTENDAEL, *Farnost sv. Prekéra. Hospodářská a ekonomická krize – příčiny, souvislosti, důsledky*, Praha: Lidové noviny, 2014, ISBN 978-80-7422-360-0.

the world) and 2017/1 (The role of spirituality in the assisting professions: Spirituality as a specific discourse), which have been formulated following incentives of editorial board members."

*Roman Míčka*