

# Editorial

## Dear readers

We are bringing to you this year's first issue of *Caritas et veritas*, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* by the Second Vatican Council. At first sight it may seem that this topic does not fit in well with our journal's profile – it is perhaps too historical, too churchly, and on the other hand there is not enough social scientific and humanities orientation in it. The editorial board conceives of this topic as a celebration of the anniversary of an event without which a journal like *Caritas et Veritas* could not even be imagined. In the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) the process of change of both the external forms of the Catholic Church and the Catholic way of thinking, including theological thought, was culminated. Disidentification with all that was non-Catholic was replaced by openness and willingness to dialogue. The constitution *Gaudium et spes* best expresses this change – it is intended for all people, not only for Catholics; it challenges to us dialogue and is therefore itself dialogical in character. In that way it opens up space in theological thinking for dialogue with other scholarly fields, among others with the humanities and social sciences. If the aim of the journal *Caritas et Veritas* is to reflect Christian contexts in the humanities and social sciences, then it is also part of the continuation of Vatican II and the constitution *Gaudium et spes*. And that is why there is much to celebrate.

In the Czech version of this issue we first bring two interviews with a theological and pastoral retrospection of the Council and what it brought about. The first interview was given by the well-known Czech commentator of the Council, our dear colleague from České Budějovice Prof. Karel Skalický. We were able to conduct the second interview on implementing the Council's ideas in the pastoral practice with the first bishop of Pilsen, recently turned emeritus Mons. František Radkovský. After the interviews there follows a series of scholarly papers by Czech and foreign authors who at the end of 2015 took part in the conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the constitution *Gaudium et spes* organized by the [Faculty of Theology of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice](#).

It is first of all the paper by Prof. Paul Michael Zulehner from Vienna who engages in reflecting on the pontificate of the Roman bishop Francis on a long term basis. His text deals with the question of whether and how Francis is at present realizing ideas of the constitution *Gaudium et spes*. In this context Zulehner refers among others to so-called *Pact of the Catacomb*, which originated at the time of the Second Vatican Council. This issue of *Caritas et Veritas* brings its first Czech translation. The second study, by Prof. Ansgar Kreutzer from Linz in Austria, is devoted to the significance and interpretation of the constitution *Gaudium et spes*. In 2006 Prof. Kreutzer received the prestigious Karl Rahner Prize for his habilitation devoted to the constitution *Gaudium et spes*. The other Linz author Prof. Helmut Renöckl deals in his study with the cultural paradigm

of the 21st century and constitution *Gaudium et spes*. Prof. Zulehner's pupil Assoc. Prof. János Wildmann from Pécs in Hungary focuses in his paper on the anthropology of *Gaudium et spes* with respect to the issue of the refugee wave in Europe. Assoc. Prof. Shaji G. Kochuthara from the Pontifical Athenaeum of Theology, Philosophy and Canon Law (Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram) in India deals from the position of *Gaudium et spes* with the issue of globalization, a phenomenon to which the constitution would certainly pay much attention today.

There are also papers by Czech authors. We bring a study by the leading Czech orientalist Prof. Luboš Kropáček on Christian-Moslem relationships after Vatican II. Prof. Pavel Ambros focuses on the key pastoral-theological concepts of signs of the times and discernment which entered theological discourse (anew) thanks to the Council. Assoc. Prof. David Václavík's study reflects the relationship of Czechs and the Catholic Church from the point of view of religious studies and sociology of religion. Thereby the entire issue is ultimately anchored by a social scientific view of its topic.

Since a number of the foreign authors come from German speaking countries or countries where German is traditionally the first foreign language, some of the texts in this issue are published not in an English translation but in the German original.

Dear readers, we believe that an issue of *Caritas et veritas* precisely thus conceived is a worthy celebration of the anniversary mentioned above and can therefore interest you by the richness and variety of its views of the selected topic.

Michal Opatrný

Dear Readers of Caritas et Veritas,

We would like to apologize for the delay regarding the issue of our new 1/2016 edition.

The delay has been caused due to a change of supplier, which was not initiated on our side.

Thank you very much for your understanding

Michal Opatrný  
Chairman of the Editorial Board