

Dear readers,

You are opening another issue of the *Caritas et veritas* journal, this time devoted to the topic of spirituality in the helping professions. While the discourse of this topic is richly developed overseas, in Europe it is not sufficiently appreciated. However, it has already received some attention in the Czech Republic and the present issue of *Caritas et veritas* aims to give support to this trend.

Spirituality in the broad sense of the word, as it is conceived, for example, in the sociology of religion, is a source of values and motivation for the human being. In the helping professions, therefore, the spirituality of their clients is crucial, as are the work procedures enabling the workers in the helping professions to understand the clients' spirituality. However, the spirituality of the helping persons is equally important, as their spirituality is also a source of the values and motivations which have brought them to work in a helping profession.

Among the papers in this issue, that of Jakub Doležel deserves special attention. In his paper, he is concerned with the issue of whether and how social work performed in facilities operated by ecclesial providers of social services pays attention to the clients' spirituality. Jozef Žuffa's paper deals with the question of how the Christian profile of Caritas facilities in Slovakia is perceived by their employees. The paper by Stanislav Přibyl analyses the relationship of spirituality and canon law, while the relationship between spirituality and morality is examined by Vojtěch Šimek. Wiesław Przygoda focuses on the role of charitable organisations in the so-called third sector of Polish society. Similarly, Karel Šimr is concerned with the question of the role of diakonia in the Czech public sphere.

Esteemed readers, I trust that this issue of *Caritas et veritas* will captivate your attention with the approach it has chosen to take towards this complex matter in that it opens up the issue of religion and spirituality not merely from theological positions, but especially from the point of view of social work and other helping professions. This point of view may be beneficial for social work, and also for theology, since the two conceptions of spirituality are mutually complementary to some extent, and to some extent can also inspire each other.

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