

Editorial

Dear readers of *Caritas et veritas*,

Let us introduce another issue of our magazine to you. This time it is dedicated to the topic *The worker in the helping professions – personality, professional, or labourer?* The topic was chosen in accordance with the demands placed on the helping professions under the current social situation. Employees in the helping professions encounter numerous, varied, and sometimes conflicting claims coming from both employers, diverse clients' life situations, and also from the need for self-development and the emphasis on professionalism. On the one hand, strong personalities are in high demand for their stability, insight, and ability to support others. They are expected to be an example and bear the burden of their clients' problems, as well as deal with the complexity of additional problems associated with the helping professions, such as administration, project funding of helping organisations, and so on. On the other hand, professionalism is required in order to standardise preferences and interests arising from the diversity of personalities of individual workers in the helping professions. Professionalisation therefore (in the sense of developing competences and expanding knowledge) introduces the responsible and quality processes of providing help in practice, managing its provision, etc., both in the interests of clients as well as in the interests of the state and donors, but ultimately also in the interest of the helping professions. Also, workers in the helping professions are also seen as postmodern society workers who keep it all going. As with a large ship with polished decks, in the darkness below deck the engineer lubricates and controls the operation of the engines, just as workers in the assisting professions labour in the dark corners of society and interpersonal relationships in order to prevent it all from colliding and failing. However, we do not only consider the metaphor of the cruise ship, but also the current way of life, i.e., concepts of social policy and helping, and the fact that workers in helping professions are viewed as craftsmen who possess the craft skills to manage or manufacture unified components that can also be subsequently repaired.

These aspects and problems, together with many others, are taken into account and reflected in the professional studies within this issue of *Caritas et veritas*. In defining the topic of the issue, the helping profession concept is intended to be understood very broadly. That is why you can find studies that deal with social workers (Emrová, Kaczor, Lustová, Šrajer), teachers and educators (Macků and Röhrerová, Muchová, Zbudilová), or even pastoral professions (Muchová, Šrajer). The issue is supplemented by several studies in the Varia section on the concept of spiritual help in extraordinary situations in the German-language thinking environment (Maryšková), on differences in religious socialisation in the Czech Republic across generations (Mišovič), on tensions between the functioning of the Christian helping organisations and the theory of natural law (Opatrný – Flídrová), or the use of empirical methods in practical theology (Šídllová).

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