

Dear readers,

This issue of *Caritas et veritas* has probably the longest name you have ever seen in professional periodicals. The theme of it is the origin of social work which is built on pre-institutional interpersonal relationships. The foundations of contemporary institutional forms can be seen in Christian communities. In these communities, the motive for social work was a neighbour's need and love for one's neighbour. Mutual help, in this way, is a form of 'bottom-up' social help. It is motivated by the enthusiasm of individual people. The institutionalised form, whether as Diaconia, Caritas, or any other organisation, is a form of 'top-down' social help. It brings many benefits which include a wide social impact, greater funding, professionalism, etc. On the other hand, such a structure can easily leave out a client who simply does not fit into the defined categories. The purpose of our issue is to point out the importance of both approaches to social work and the interaction between individual and institutional forms of social work. The theme of the whole issue is opened by motivating interviews with Štěpán Brodský and Petr Hruška, which provide a practical view of both forms of social help in the light of everyday life in parishes, from the perspective of Diaconia or Caritas. In the following text, professional thematic studies devoted to the relationship of both forms of social help will be considered. Karel Šimr presents a study dealing with the contribution of the Christian form of social help for the whole of society viewed through the sociological paradigm of the 'networking society'. This is followed by a study written by Annette Noller which presents various theories of the Church developed by contemporary evangelical theology and a diaconal dimension within parishes as well as within socially beneficial organisations. The study by Jan Kaňák is devoted to spiritually inspired crisis intervention done by female social workers, and deals with conflicts of spiritual and professional discourse. The group of thematic studies ends with the study by Radka Janebová. Her study represents a crossroads of critical practice of social work in the context of the institutionalised system of social services in the Czech Republic.

The new issue of *Caritas et veritas* also offers non-thematic professional studies on various aspects of social work. Jana Maryšková wrote a study focusing on the impact of serious illness on the 'traditional' or 'alternative' spirituality of patients. The research results in the 'traditional'/'alternative' groups of religious respondents open up challenging questions for pastoral care and its approaches. The study by Martina Kočerová focuses on leisure time pedagogy, and on the relatively new term *weisure*. The new term points to the problem of the abuse of leisure time in connection with work. Finally, but no less important, is a study by Stuart Nicolson which deals with the link between new approaches in apologetics and their possible use in the context of social work.

The issue is complemented by a review by Milan Nakonečný on the inspiring book *Mind, Self and Society*.

On behalf of the entire editorial staff, we wish you fruitful and rewarding reading.

Pavel Kilberg

Executive editor of *Caritas et veritas*