

Dear readers of *Caritas et Veritas*,

The topic of this issue is the humanities-based approaches to social work and the helping professions. These disciplines usually perceive their origin in philosophy, respectively in its various philosophical schools, and have their own professional ethics, etc. However, social work – however multidisciplinary it is – sees itself more as a social science. In other helping professions this is often no different because they adopt the sociological thought paradigm as the basic theoretical and epistemological framework of not only all social but also human sciences. The new issue of *Caritas et Veritas* does not seek to question this evidence-based approach. Rather, it wants to complement it by paying particular attention to selected topics of the humanities. These topics may not only be the historical and theoretical starting point of today's helping professions but can still co-shape them with their specific epistemology and their own theories – that is, without these theories and epistemological approaches being 'melted' in order to serve the needs of the social science paradigm.

Helena Machulová from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice discusses the topic of the Christian roots of today's social work. The main theme is the concept of the value of the human person and his place in society shown in the example of deeds of mercy. It also compares today's social work and Christian charity. An interdisciplinary topic is presented by Karel Řezáč from University of West Bohemia Pilsen. He presents the concept of the Compatibility Approach as an alternative for social work which, in today's society, is exposed to economising tendencies. In his study, Jaroslav Šetek from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice examines the development of the view of economic theories in the helping professions. He points out that while older theories (Smith, Marx) considered assisting professions to be unproductive and therefore economically inferior, more recent theories show that by strengthening the quality of life of society's members, the social and human capital of the members is also significantly strengthened. These are the key factor of economic growth. Miroslav Kappl from the University of Hradec Králové deals with the topic of mindfulness and the possibilities of training in this skill in the process of providing social work services. He deals with both historical-cultural bases of mindfulness and research of this approach in neurosciences, and subsequently discusses the use of mindfulness in social work helping clients with dementia, depression, learning disabilities, and drug users. Finally, he focuses on the place of mindfulness in the context of spiritually sensitive social work and on the risks associated with the use of mindfulness. Petra Potměšilová from Palacký University in Olomouc deals with the spiritual dimension of social pedagogy studies from the perspective of students.

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

The editorial staff of *Caritas et Veritas*