

Editorial

Education for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty as a Current Challenge for Contemporary Pedagogy and beyond

When one of the greatest thinkers of Christian Europe, Erasmus of Rotterdam, was looking for a German expression in order to most succinctly express what the Latin term *educatio* means, he helped himself using the new word *Bildung*. The root of the word that we translate into Czech as education is the word *Bild*, that is, image. This fact implicitly refers to the biblical concept of man created ‘in the image of God’ (Gen 1:27).

In a certain sense, however, the ‘image of God’ in being and thus the basis, essence, core of everything existing is what is classically named *transcendentalia* – goodness, truth, and beauty. Religious speech thus names its own basis of meaning and being with profane terms. Without the question about goodness, truth, and beauty, as my teacher and colleague from the University of Vienna Martin Jäggle once said, ‘the school would be an inhumane institution and science a mere technique’.

It is clear that asking about goodness, truth, and beauty in the context of education is more than timely. The present volume of *Caritas et veritas* takes this question as its own and tries to look at this topic from several angles in order to support the debate on the search for adequate forms of education.

In an introductory interview with Heinrich Dickerhoffer, a theologian and pedagogue who is one of Germany’s foremost experts on fairy tales, we follow the footsteps of the great narratives through which the sense of goodness, truth, and beauty has been passed down from generation to generation since time immemorial.

In the thematic texts, thanks to Helena Zbudilová, Don Quixote becomes the next guide on the way to beauty. His ‘via pulchritudinis’ which he follows in his relation to Dulcinea can be seen analogically as the soul’s relation to God. Stuart Nicolson offers us a key to the transcendentals, thanks to his ‘experiences of awe and wonder’ in teaching children. Is it possible to find traces of the question of goodness, truth, and beauty even in the university environment? We can take a look at this and its meaning with Bert Meeuwssen. We read about the fact that in the beginning wisdom played before God in the biblical book of Proverbs (cf. Proverbs 8:30), but what is the potential of play and in what sense does it bring us closer to the essence of education? This is thought through by Stanislav Suda.

Ludvík Dřímál invites us to a journey through the pages of the new Directory for Catechesis, the Czech translation of which was published a few months ago. Together with Ondřej Havelka, we will approach the issue of the theological concept of the human person. And finally, we will return back to earth and educational reality together with Ondřej Fischer, Petr Jandejsek and Martin Vaňáč, who will reveal to us how the study of theology benefits human development.

Traces of the question of goodness, truth, and beauty can also be found in the three peer-reviewed publications and finally also at meetings such as the Islamological conference, which can be also looked back on.

I wish you an inspiring read on the path to goodness, truth, and beauty!

Tomáš Cyril Havel
co-editor, *Caritas et Veritas*