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The journal of theology, education, canon law
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The concept of person, as well as the idea that stands behind this concept, grew in the first place out of the interplay between human thought and theology, and so entered intellectual history. The concept of the person is one of the contributions to human thought made possible and provided by faith. It grew out of the interplay between philosophy and the antecedent given of faith. Christian thought made use of the concept *persona*, gave to this word a new meaning and opened up a new dimension of human thought. Therefore, the concept of the person expresses in its origin the idea of dialogue and the idea of God as the dialogical being. It refers to God as the being that lives in the word and consists of the word as “I” and “you” and “we”.

The human being, as a person, is a unity of soul and body that is dynamically realized through its opening to a relation with God and other human beings. A person is formed for *being-with* and *being-for others*, which is realized in love, which drives a person to gradually broaden the range of his or her relations beyond the sphere of private life and family affections, to assume the range of universality and to embrace – at least by desire – all mankind. This same drive also contains a strong formational requirement: the requirement to learn to read the interdependence of a world that is increasingly besieged by the same problems of a global nature, as a strong ethical sign for the people of our time; it entails a call to emerge from that vision of man that tends to see each one as an

isolated individual. It is the requirement to form man as a person: a subject that in love builds his historical, cultural, spiritual and religious identity, placing it in dialogue with other persons, in a constant exchange of gifts offered and received. Within the context of globalization, post-modernity and plurality, the human being must be formed in such a way as to respect the identity, ethnicity, culture, history, religion and especially the suffering and needs of others.

For all these reasons, I am very grateful to the editors of the journal “The Person and the Challenges: The journal of theology, education, canon law and social studies inspired by Pope John Paul II” for their attempt to go to the source from which the idea of “person” was born, especially to the texts written by Pope John Paul II and the search for integral formation of human being. As a consequence, well-written articles from various countries are supporting the process of scientific research and human formation. Today, this formation is especially important because of the extraordinary increase and gravity of threats to the life of individuals and communities.

I see “The Person and the Challenges: The journal of theology, education, canon law and social studies inspired by Pope John Paul II” not only as an important contribution to theological, educational and social studies, but also as a concern and commitment to the quality of life and dignity of every human being. This is a profoundly Christian vision, so I strongly encourage all authors to persevere in their commitment in promoting the dignity of the human being, so that the journal may increasingly mark the lives of individuals and communities, while becoming a source of wisdom, communion and dynamism.

I accompany you with my prayers, as I warmly bless all those who prepare, edit and read “The Person and the Challenges: The journal of theology, education, canon law and social studies inspired by Pope John Paul II”.



+ Kazimierz Kard. Nycz

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