

Warsaw, 21 February 2012



NUNCIATURA APOSTOLSKA  
W POLSCE

Reverend Professor Stala,

It is with great interest that I read the very first issues of your periodical “The Person and the Challenges: The Journal of Theology, Education, Canon Law and Social Studies Inspired by Pope John Paul II”.

My personal experience with Blessed John Paul II was strongly associated with the mystery of mercy. The intimate union with God and the world, warmly nurtured by Pope John Paul II, displayed this mystery along the years. In his lifetime, deeply affected by the Second World War, Nazism, Fascism and later by Communism, he was immersed in the mystery of God, the Redeemer of humankind, God rich in mercy.

Overwhelmed by the forces of evil, people were looking for solutions which could ease mankind from evil in the future. They tried to promote a culture of tolerance, human compassion and consensus. John Paul II realized that all these cultural trends were not sufficient, because the modern world seemed to have lost the basic perception of what is good and what is wrong. Contemporary society is built more and more on the voice of the majority. The separation of truth from politics has become a key issue in a skewed vision of democracy which knowingly renounces the truth in favor of opinion.

John Paul II understood well that at a time when power is not exercised from any basis in truth, but from the opinion of the citizens, Christians are called to witness in a particular way to the social values of mercy; that is mercy understood not as forgiveness at any cost, but as a protest of love against every kind of evil;

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Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Józef Stala  
The Chief Editor of *The Person and the Challenges*  
Tarnów

which meets with human misery and is able to love both weak and sinful persons. Such love full of mercy can properly set justice and solidarity in motion and do what is right in any given situation. 'Merciful love' instils these values into social structures and makes society more human.

I have always been impressed with John Paul II's closeness, proximity to people in a difficult situation, even in the most remote regions of the world. He helped them promoting greater sensitivity in the hearts of those who were able to make a difference, to improve the fate of those in need. This was particularly evident during his travels around the world.

In sharing my remarks, I am pleased once again to commend the scope of your publication aiming at conducting scientific research in relevant areas of theology and anthropology. I do hope that good intentions will be effectively and fruitfully implemented.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Migliore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

†Celestino Migliore  
Apostolic Nuncio