Center for Studies on the Thought of John Paul II at The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow

A symposium to commemorate the first anniversary of John Paul II's death was organized by the Chair of Theological Anthropology from the Faculty of Theology at Krakow Pontifical Academy of Theology (Papieska Akademia Teologiczna). The symposium, which was entitled "Man as the Way of the Church. The Anthropological Thought of John Paul II", led to the creation of the Centre for Studies on the Thought of John Paul II (OBM – Ośrodek Badań nad Myślą Jana Pawła II), and initiated a new series of publications, entitled "Studies on the Thought of John Paul II" (Studia nad myślą Jana Pawła II). The editorial committee is headed by Fr. Jarosław Kupczak, O.P., who has been the director of the Centre for Studies on the Thought of John Paul II since 2007.

The Centre, which is responsible for exploring John Paul II's legacy, and which cooperates with the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of John Paul II (Instytut Dialogu Międzykulturowego im. Jana Pawła II) in Krakow, acts mainly in two ways. Firstly, it organizes regular lectures, entitled "John Paul II. The Ministry of Thinking" (Jan Paweł II. Posługa myślenia), to which specialists on John Paul II's teaching are invited from all over Poland. Secondly, it issues interesting and valuable publications that deal directly with the thought of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II.

The aim of this study is to present in a complete way the publications of the Centre. The publications will be grouped and briefly described. Fifteen volumes have been issued to date. (See Appendix).

The first group include volumes 1 and 9. The first volume, "Człowiek żyjący drogą Kościoła" (The Living Man as the Way of the Church), is prepared by Jan Daniel Szczurek and Renata Komurka, and includes material from the above-mentioned symposium. The publication has been divided into three parts; however, it is difficult to pinpoint the rationale for such a division, since all the parts include essays on theology, philosophy and social sciences, a fact which,

incidentally, reflects the pope's integrity of thought. The theological reflections concern John Paul II's anthropology, ecclesiology, ecumenism and theology of the family. The philosophical papers centre on normative anthropology, the phenomenological description of the human person and the issue of liberalism. The social topics tackled by the authors include the question of man's relation to society, politics, economy and bioethics.

Volume 9 is a collection of lectures delivered during the lecture series "John Paul II. The Ministry of Thinking". These addresses, collected by Jarosław Kupczak and Dariusz Radziechowski, have been divided into four groups: the sources, the poet, the philosopher and the theologian. The first part comprises an analysis of the foundations of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II's thought, with particular emphasis on phenomenology. The second group of texts reflects Wojtyła's literary output. The third chapter gathers essays devoted to the philosophical principles of former archbishop of Krakow, such as the foundations of ethics, transcendental notions and the philosophy of man (metaphysics and the rights of a person, interpersonal solidarity). The last part presents the theological trends in the pope's thought. The authors indicate the influences of St. John of the Cross and the Second Vatican Council on John Paul II's theological vision.

The second group of publications places special emphasis on the philosophical and theological anthropology of John Paul II. This part opens with volume 4, which is devoted to the Krakow school of anthropology. The book, edited by Jarosław Kupczak and Jolanta Majka, is a collection of essays on the leading representatives of the school. These include Roman Ingarden, Józef Tischner, Antoni Kępiński and Karol Wojtyła himself.

The next volume (5), authored by Jan Galarowicz, is a creative study on the anthropological thought of Ingarden, Wojtyła and Tischner. The comparison of the three authors' thought leads Galarowicz to present the main ideas of agathological-ethical communion personalism.

Volume 6, written by Dariusz Radziechowski and published as "Teologia kultury integralnej" (Theology of Integral Culture), is an anthropological study of the thought of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II. The author indicates the importance of culture in the development of theology, which is why he extensively analyzes the contribution of the pope as a philosopher to promoting culture in a broad sense.

The last volume in this group (11), also dealing with anthropological themes, is the doctoral dissertation of Maria Zboralska. The author strives to develop the idea of the human person's transcendence in the thought of Karol Wojtyła

– John Paul II. She points to its three directions: toward self, toward another person, and toward God.

Another group of publications is centered around the themes of holiness and the spiritual life. It starts with volume 2, authored by Cezary Smuniewski. The book deals with the eschatological orientation of adoration in John Paul II's teaching, and offers a comprehensive reflection upon this form of worshiping God, a form that the pope calls an "inexhaustible source of holiness".

The next volume (3), edited by Jan Machniak, introduces the reader to the original texts of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II – on St. John of the Cross. The editor has gathered notes from a seminar, the masters and doctoral theses, and other texts by Wojtyła on the Spanish mystic. This collection is supplemented with commentaries, the fruit of an academic session on the reception of St. John of the Cross by Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II.

A similar topic is approached by Joanna Tebień, who reflects on the influence of St. John of the Cross on Wojtyła's poetry. These reflections form the theme of volume 10. The author analyzes "Pieśń o Bogu ukrytym" (Song of the Hidden God), exploring its relationship with the Spanish Doctor of the Church.

Vitali Siarko deals with John Paul II's theology of martyrdom. Volume 12 incorporates fragments of the author's doctoral dissertation, in which he notes that the pope has placed his teaching on the Christian *martyria* in an ecclesial and evangelical context.

In volume 13, Jan Machniak presents the manuscripts of the drama "Brat naszego Boga" (Our God's Brother) and Karol Wojtyła's poems, works which were inspired by St. Albert Chmielowski. In a short analysis, the author shows the phenomenon of the saint and his influence on Wojtyła.

The last volume in this group (14) offers an analysis of the notion of silence and its function in the relationship between God and man in John Paul II's homilies. The author, Paweł Gabara, describes the function of silence in the communication process, with special emphasis on the mystery of the silence of the Triune God, as well as the silence of biblical figures and of John Paul II himself.

The third and last group of books published in the series begins with volume 7, with a several-hundred-page-long monograph by the current rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II, Wojciech Zyzak, entitled "Kapłaństwo prezbiterów" (The Priesthood of Presbyters). By a thorough study of a unique source, *Insegnamenti di Giovanni Paolo II*, the author reveals the pope's extraordinary contribution to the modern theology of servant priesthood. The

six chapters first present the sources of the priesthood and the relationship of the ministerial priesthood with God as The Holy Trinity. The next two chapters discuss the ecclesiology of the priesthood and the mission of the priest. Chapters five and six deal with the priest's spirituality and the formation of priests in a broad sense.

Another volume (8), edited by Maria Zboralska and Jarosław Kupczak, strives to answer the question of what the "new feminism" of John Paul II is about. The first part of this publication contains material from a conference on this subject, which was organized by the OBM and The *Have No Fear!* John Paul II Centre (Centrum Jana Pawła II "Nie lękajcie się!"). The speeches are an attempt to reveal the great wealth of John Paul II's teaching on sexuality, and place this teaching within the context of the modern debate on feminism. The second part contains an article in English, written by Mario Coccia, and is an attempt to find common ground between the concept of a person in Wojtyła's "Osoba i czyn" (The Acting Person) and his reflection on marriage.

The last volume (15) in the series, thus far, deals with the issue of solidarity. By analyzing, in a particular way, the Pope's social teaching, the author, Zbigniew Walaszczuk, is able to ascertain what meaning John Paul II attributes to modern day solidarity. It is precisely in this globalized world that solidarity is to be a part of the leaven of Christianity, and is meant to transform reality according to its values.

A new volume is planned to be published soon, the second collection of essays based on speeches delivered during the "John Paul II. The Ministry of Thinking" series of lectures.

APPENDIX:

- Człowiek żyjący drogą Kościoła. Myśl antropologiczna Jana Pawła II, R. Komurka, J.D. Szczurek (eds.), Kraków 2008.
- 2. C. Smuniewski, Niewyczerpane źródło świętości, Kraków 2008.
- 3. Św. Jan od Krzyża w recepcji Karola Wojtyły Jana Pawła II, J. Machniak (ed.), Kraków 2008.
- 4. Krakowska szkoła antropologiczna, J. Kupczak, J. Majka (eds.), Kraków 2009.
- J. Galarowicz, Paradoks egzystencji etycznej. Inspiracje: Ingarden Wojtyła Tischner, Kraków 2009.
- 6. D. Radziechowski, Teologia kultury integralnej. Antropologiczne studium myśli Karola Wojtyły Jana Pawła II, Kraków 2010.
- 7. W. Zyzak, Kapłaństwo prezbiterów. Studium nauczania Jana Pawła II, Kraków 2010.

- 8. Czym jest nowy feminizm Jana Pawła II?, J. Kupczak, M. Zboralska (eds.), Kraków 2010.
- 9. Jan Paweł II. Posługa myślenia, J. Kupczak, D. Radziechowski (eds.), Kraków 2011.
- 10. J. Tebień, Taka milcząca wzajemność. "Pieśń o Bogu ukrytym" Karola Wojtyły w świetle doktryny św. Jana od Krzyża, Kraków 2011.
- 11. M. Zboralska, *Przekraczanie siebie jako podstawa antropologii teologicznej Karola Wojtyły Jana Pawła II*, Kraków 2012.
- 12. V. Siarko, Teologia męczeństwa w ujęciu Jana Pawła II, Kraków 2013.
- J. Machniak, Święty brat Albert Chmielowski w myśli Karola Wojtyły Jana Pawla II, Kraków 2013.
- 14. P. Gabara, Pojęcie milczenia i jego funkcja w relacji między Bogiem i człowiekiem w homiliach Jana Pawła II, Kraków 2013.
- 15. Z. Waleszczuk, Solidarność w nauczaniu Jana Pawła II. Znaczenie pryncypium w świetle encyklik społecznych: Laborem exercens, Sollicitudo rei socialis, Centesimus annus, Kraków 2014.