

Dear readers,

The new issue of *Caritas et Veritas* comes with the theme ‘*The Place of Theology in Social Work Education*’. This topic is up-to-date not only in our Czech environment (where social work can be studied at colleges run by the Church and its place as well in four of the five theological faculties) but also in Hungary, Germany, Poland, Romania, or Spain. In these countries, there are colleges or universities run by churches. They integrate theological topics or directly place theology itself into social work studies. The study combinations of social work and theology also exist in the US, where it is possible to study them as a Major/Minor or as a double degree. The European approach is different; themes from theological social ethics, theological anthropology, practical theology, and sometimes from other theological disciplines are more or less an integral part of social work studies. In addition, since the beginning of the 20th century, the disciplines have been developed in a directly focused way on the theological and social scientific reflection of Christian charity (*Caritaswissenschaft* in the Catholic environment) and diakonia (*Diakonik* in the Protestant environment) in the German-speaking area.

The key themes, the theoretical starting points, and methodological approaches of these disciplines were in particular adopted at the Czech theological faculties which accredited courses in social work. In this way they made the theological and socially scientific reflection of Christian charity and diakonia a part of social work studies and the established German discourse has received a completely new dimension.

Such a situation does not remain without unresolved issues and challenges. Most of them are covered in this issue. Given the abovementioned context, the articles by authors from Germany were published in German and translated into Czech. In this way they are accessible to our practitioners as well. The German approach to this issue is introduced by Klaus Baumann and Stephanie Bohlen (Freiburg), Beate Hofmann (Wuppertal), and Peter Fonk (Passau). The Czech approach is represented by Jindřich Šrajber (University of South Bohemia) and František Burda (University of Hradec Králové). The Spanish experience (influenced by the German approach) is presented in the article by Rainer Gehrig (Murcia). The Polish view is shared by Wiesław Przygoda (Lublin). We can also divide these studies according to their focus (the system of studies or its content and theoretical basis).

In any case, they bring a very wide range of insights into the topic *The place of Theology in Social Work Education*. There are several additional studies in the *Varia* part which are surely appealing also. Also, one can find a couple of interesting reviews in the issue which are not only about professional publications but also about innovative practice.

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Chairman of the Editorial Board of *Caritas et veritas*