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From the Editor

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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„I am standing on the threshold of your home, to talk to you”. With these words Pope Francis began his short letter to the families, written on February 2nd, 2014. What did he want to talk about? The subject of this talk was the Third Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to start on October, 2014. He recalled that the Synod Assembly would be working on the following theme: *Pastoral challenges associated with the family in the context of evangelization*. Asking families for an intensive prayer to the Holy Spirit he pointed out, that this Assembly would be a stage on the way to discern and develop appropriate pastoral measures in order to help families to face the current challenges.

Watching the lively discussion accompanying the preparations for this event one can notice some tension present in it. It is connected on the one hand with the need to preserve the unchanging truths of the theological doctrine concerning the study of the marriage and the family and on the other hand, with the wish to develop the most appropriate responses to contemporary challenges and issues, facing the Church today. Aware of the importance of these events we are witnessing, we have decided to make a contribution to the ongoing debate also on the pages of this volume of „Studia Salvatoriana Polonica”. Hence the primary thematic block, which is entitled *the Church in a family – a family in the Church*.

Searching primarily for a deeper understanding of the essence of marriage and family we drew on the acquis of the recognized authorities. Fr. J. Merecki SDS analyses the anthropological basis of marriage and family in John Paul II’s theology of the body. Inspired by the teaching of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Fr. S. Pajor SDS writes of the priorities in the creation of the family community. As a complement to this philosophical and theological perspective, there comes the study by A. Ładyżyński. As a social educator he examines the correspondence of St. Thérèse of the child Jesus’ family (that is of her blessed parents – Zelia and Louis Martin) and memories of Peter Molla,

husband of Saint Gianna Beretta. From this analysis, several valuable insights emerge, about marriage and family life.

Current pastoral challenges, related to marriage and family are addressed in the following studies. With the view of the fact of divorce mentality spreading and in the face of the dissolution of many marriages, E. Porada reflects on the preparation for marriage and makes some pastoral suggestions concerning this issue. Fr. W. Wenz refers to the current pre – synod discussion on the faithful living in non-sacramental relationships. Taking into account their canonical position, he addresses the proposed new canonical – pastoral possibilities concerning these people. Not less important are the challenges of migration, faced by many modern families. To these, in turn, Fr. B. Giemza SDS refers.

The next four studies deal with some selected specific aspects of family life. Fr. P. Ślęczka SDS writes about the truth and the dignity of a person as important parenting rules. K. Drąg, on the other hand, focuses on shaping the media and information competence in the family. The issue of personal development of women as wives and mothers is related in the joint article by A. Chrobak and K. Marcinkowska. Regarding the constantly increasing number of elderly people in the society, reflection over their situation in the modern family becomes extremely important. The psychological aspects of this situation are revealed by M. Straś-Romanowska.

Traditionally, in addition to the specific thematic block, we also publish the texts on both our Salvatorian history (Fr. S. Horn SDS), and on other relevant theological issues (Fr. S. Dyk, Fr. P. Liszka CMF). Another valuable complement to the present edition comes in the shape of a statement about teaching and scientific activity of our confrere, retired Professor Fr. Zygmunt Hajduk SDS. The reader will also find reports and overviews on scientific and educational activity of the Higher Theological Seminary of Salvatorians in Bagno.

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