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Dear Readers

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Dear Readers,

In this year's „Nurt SVD's" Special Issue, we are more than satisfied to present an integrated textbook of lectures delivered during the Symposium on *Umma. Religious Practices, Family Rituals and Everyday Life*, organised on January 19, 2012, by the Department of Science of Religions of the Cardinal Stephan Wyszyński University, under the supervision of Father Leonard Fic, PhD, and the University's Scientific Circle of the Specialists in Religions, managed by Aldona Maria Piwko. The Meeting was under the auspices of Bishop Romuald Kamiński, the president of the Polish Episcopate's Committee for the Dialogue with Non-Christian Religions.

The aim of the Symposium was to analyse various aspects of living – the religious, family, social one – of Umma, that is the Muslim community. However, poring into the texts of the individual lectures – it is easy to realise that Umma's every dimension is stigmatised with the spirit of Qur'an – the mother of all the books (umm al-kitāb) – as the Muslim tradition teaches. The governing system, the family and marriage model, the cuisine and menu, architecture and fine arts, or even the rules of banks' functioning – they are all, up to various degrees, an evident interpretation of the Muslim law, the origins of which lie in the Qur'an, Sharia and Sunni.

The Symposium's unquestionable success was the acquainting the Reader with the individual (often less popular) aspects of Islam – the second, in the statistical order, most common monotheist religion. The lectures teach not only the Islamic doctrine – but they also open the Readers to the Muslim world in its cultural variety, bound to the generations' evolution. Following this option, we discover the specifics of the Muslim religion, “encoded” in the family, economy and political relations. The event that took place in John Paul II's Hall on January 19, 2012 – fits into the after-the-Second-Vatican-Council half-century Church's renewal process and establishing relation with the religions of the world. The documents such as *Nostra aetate*, *Dignitatis humanae* and *Ecclesiam suam* started a lucky beginning in this trend.

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