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*Philosophy and Canon Law. Vol. 1:
The Family Institution: Identity, Sovereignty,
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It should probably be brought to readers' attention that a new noteworthy phenomenon has appeared on the academic publishing market, namely a journal *Philosophy and Canon Law*. The said publication appears to constitute both international and interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of philosophical and legal (particularly coming from the field of canon law) reflections, that also welcomes contributions from representatives of other fields of study.

The first volume of this annual periodical, entitled *The Family Institution: Identity, Sovereignty, Social Dimension*, is rather compelling study of the titular issues in the context of contemporary philosophy and canon law. The volume is divided into three parts: Philosophical Thought, Juridical Canonical Thought, and Reviews.

In the initial article entitled "Family and *Polis*. The Socio-Philosophical Legacy of Plato and Aristotle at the Present Time," the author (Pavol Dancák from the University of Prešov, Slovakia) ponders the current social changes which have had a detrimental impact on the economy in general. As a possible remedy to the mentioned crisis Dancák proposes the wisdom imbuing the Ancient Greeks' philosophy and underscores its timelessness. The second text, "The Family in the Contemporary World. Catholic Social Teaching and Gender" written by Krzysztof Wiczorek from the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, focuses on the two possible attitudes to be assumed in the process of searching for one's identity and the proper way of individual and communal life. One of them is influ-

enced by the Church, the other by secularization that seems ubiquitous in the postmodern world.

Helena Hrehová (University of Trnava, Slovakia) in her article entitled “The Role of the Women in the Development of Human Rights” reflects on the indisputably important part played by women in the advancement of human rights. The authoress takes up the said subject comprehensively. Aneta Gawkowska (University of Warsaw) in turn, with her text “New Feminism as a Response to the Modern Crisis of Community” attempts to interpret the concept of New Feminism as a variety of personalist humanism. “Love as a Gift of Self: Call to Holiness in Christian Marriage in the Light of Eastern Monasticism” by Yosyp Veresh (International Theological Institute in Trumau, Austria) shows some characteristics of the spiritual life of monastic community and their potential application in a Christian marriage.

The final article of this part of the journal is entitled “Moral Issues of Advance Directives” and its author Witold Kania (also from the University of Silesia) tracks the vital bioethical role of advance directives (such as living will and health care proxy). The initial sections of the article draw a historical outline of this form of declaration, whereas the remainder of the text includes a description and discussion of an actual case concerning the advance directive.

The journal’s second part containing six articles mostly pertains to canon law and its view of family and marriage. An article by Andrzej Pastwa (University of Silesia in Katowice), the editor-in-chief of the publication, offers canonical reflections on marriage and family life in a study titled “Common Good of Marriage and the Family.” The article is based on John Paul II’s Letter to Family (1994). According to the author, the profound theological thought contained in the papal document translates into valuable conclusions in the realm of canon law. The article “Sovereign Family” by Tomasz Gałkowski from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw discusses the very same document but this time the author analyses such concepts as identity, subjectivity, and sovereignty of the family and their interrelationships. “The Significance of Canonical Form of Marriage,” an article by Piotr Majer (from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków) provides arguments for the canonical form of contracting marriage *ad validitatem matrimonii*. The subsequent article of the volume, “Effects of Matrimonial Canon Law: Pastoral Aspects,” is written by a Czech author Stanislav Příbyl from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. By referring to legal tools that may help the betrothed in solving particular problems and support them in their way of sacramental life, Stanislav Příbyl gives the spouses constructive advice.

In the volume's penultimate text entitled "Church Teaching on Marriage and Family as an Instruction for the State Legislator in the Context of Poland," Piotr Kroczek (also from the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków) analyses the Church teaching on marriage and family, whereas the last article of the volume "Family as a Subject of Protection in the State Family Policy" by Lucjan Świto from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, deals with the subject of the state family policy and whether it can really be perceived as a source of good examples for families of Poland.

Since families are the most important building blocks of our societies and the entire mankind, we need to protect the core values that relate to family life and marriage which were given to us by the Church. There are many inspiring articles in the discussed publication and it is highly recommended to read *Philosophy and Canon Law's* volume 1, not just for members of academic society, but also for the general public.

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