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"Twarze świętości" = "Faces of Sactity", eds. Katarzyna Dybel, Zofia Zarębianka, Kraków 2016 : [recenzja]

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Twarze świętości (Faces of Sactity)
Eds. Katarzyna DYBEŁ, Zofia ZARĘBIANKA. Kraków:
Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Papieskiego
Jana Pawła II, 2016, 154 pp.

The book entitled *Twarze świętości* (Faces of sanctity) edited by Katarzyna Dybel and Zofia Zarębianka, is a collaborative work. It is also the fruit of the 10th annual John Paul II Days dedicated to the deepening and dissemination of the heritage of Saint John Paul II. Since 2006, the John Paul II Days have been organized by universities in Kraków and the rest of Lesser Poland region. The event's purpose is to popularize the teaching of the Holy Polish Pope and help us understand him better and get most comprehensive inspiration from him in both his personal and public life. The publication provides a reflection on the sanctity by the book's contributors who represent various scientific centres in Poland and abroad. A special value for these days is the large share of students from Kraków universities in this valuable academic event.

Sanctity, according to the authors, may be variously perceived and understood; for some people it is an impressive phenomenon able to attract, whereas other treat it with indifference or disrespect. It is also sometimes regarded as strange, unnecessary, and outdated, at times even treated by some as a life path that can be dangerous. It is also associated with wellbeing and care only for yourself, and on the contrary — with neglecting your own righteous interests, for instance, material ones, and with caring only for the wellbeing of your fellow men. Sanctity may also be seen as a rescue for the world, a hope for a successful future in the earthly life. All authors seem to be faithful to the idea that sanctity is feasible and absolutely necessary for every human being and today's world.

The novelty of the study is a very clear understanding of sanctity that does not separate the sacred and the profane. Particularly noteworthy are the presentations by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz: “John Paul II — Pope of the Prayer”, Stanisław Łucarz SJ: “Holiness and Testimony in Primary Christianity”, Grzegorz Przebinda: “Rus’ and Her Saints in the Slavic Teaching of John Paul II”, Michał Drożdż “John Paul II — the Views of the Beauty of Sanctity”, Marek Wójtowicz SJ: “The Courage of the Holiness of John Paul II”, Stanisław Grygiel: “The Master and the Disciple are Present for Each Other”; Katarzyna Dybel: “Loneliness as a Privileged Space of Sanctity”, and finally, Andrzej Kaźmierczak: “A Contemporary Entrepreneur as a Good Samaritan.”

The number of students participating in this conference is an evidence of the great attractiveness of the issues in question. It can therefore be said that the monograph is one of the important works after the beatification and canonization of John Paul II. This Holy Pope is a role model, a master, teacher, also when it comes to understanding human, temporal reality. Also noteworthy is the broad reference of the presented thoughts to the encyclical of John Paul II: *Redemptor hominis*, *Dives in misericordia*, encyclical on work and social life, exhortation about lay people, family, letters about the dignity of women, letters to journalists, and more broadly, to all those responsible for the mass media, artists, families, young people. These are just examples showing that John Paul II teaches successive generations to continue to perceive the holiness of God and His presence and the world today.

The content of the reviewed publication is a kind of “proof” that the sanctifying action of God in today’s world is possible. The God of holiness grants people very generous help in many different situations, such as when a person needs mercy, when they work, communicate information, grow up, in a family environment, etc. The intention of the authors was to show holiness as something possible and attractive for today’s man. Although the work does not aspire to be exhaustive when it comes to discussed issues, it is an interesting incentive for further exploration in this vital field. It is also a great encouragement and invitation to deepen the thoughts of Saint John Paul II and constantly read about new interpretation of his teaching?

“Sanctity seems to be a difficult goal, accessible only to people who are completely unique or for those who break away completely from the life and culture of a given era. [...] It is a gift and task for lay people as well as for monks and priests, in the private sphere, as in public activities, in the lives of individuals as well as families and communities” — said John Paul II in his address for the 13th World Youth Days in November 1997. And this message is still valid, especially when we talk about the lives of young people and we consider the future of the world with concern.