

Editor's Preface

It is with great joy that we publish the 10th issue of the annual *Itinera Spiritualia*, the periodical which focuses mainly on spiritual theology but also on theology in the broader sense as well as philosophy.

One of the reasons for that joy is the fact that some hitherto unknown texts of Carmelite saints are published in this issue for the very first time in Poland: a recently recovered letter of St Teresa of Jesus and two poems by St Elisabeth of the Trinity written in her youth. Teresa's letter from 1576 to Caspar de Villanueva, chaplain of the Carmelite nuns of Malagón, as well as the poems of St Elisabeth are presented in their original form together with translations and commentaries by our authors, J. Nawojowski and J.K. Miczyński. Their pioneering articles are an important contribution to the study of the doctrine of Carmelite saints.

Two articles in this issue continue the topic of the previous one: the theological and philosophical article by A.S. Wach *Toward the Philosophy of Friendship. In Dialogue with Plato, Aristotle and St Teresa* (Part II) and M. Chmielewski's discussion of two metaphors, the "creativity of mercy" and the "balm of mercy," used by Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis in their teaching. Both metaphors entered permanently the language of theology. In accordance with the teaching of both popes, quoted especially during the Year of Mercy (2015–2016), they stand for specific acts of mercy.

Three articles deal with topics related to the doctrine of Carmelite saints. L. Wrona writes about the fear of God on the basis of an excerpt from *The Exclamations of the Soul to God* by St Teresa of Jesus. J.W. Gogola discusses the influence of St John of the Cross on the life and writings of St Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein). A. Ruszała, on the basis of *Ascent of Mount Carmel* by St John of the Cross, analyzes the issue of desires (*apetitos*) from the point of view of spiritual theology.

Finally, the articles of M. Zawada and P. Nyk present the findings of their own respective research. *The Pneumatological Dimension of Desire* is a theological look at desire and the virtue of hope in the light of the work of the Holy Spirit. Desire in its theological sense not only opens man to God and His love, but also reflects the eternal and eschatological Divine desire to be all in all.

The article *The Idea of Human Being in the Bible. The Elements of Biblical Anthropology* attempts to make more specific some biblical terms which concern the inner structure of man, from the point of view of their historical development. Furthermore, it presents biblical ideas about the afterlife.

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