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Introduction

The man is the host of the world. As a being which is reasonable, free and able to love, he is responsible for himself and the world. The reflection on the modern lifestyle leads to the conclusion that too often the man glorifies freedom while escaping from responsibility. The emphasis put on freedom facilitates the promotion of subjectivism and relativism. Relativity of values, norms and principles makes the man lose his stable reference for his internal and external harmony. He becomes ignorant of what is worth his attention, effort, respect and love, and to what he can and should be indifferent.¹ It is a basic ignorance, as it refers to the recognition of truth and false, good and evil, higher values, and the sense of meaning and objective. Living outside or on the outskirts of what is important, the man experiences existential emptiness and loses his sense of happiness. Those are natural consequences of living in the axionormative chaos. It is a specific “offer” of the modern world, which is alternative to the lifestyle compliant with unchanging references to values and norms regulating the individual and social life.

It is worth mentioning that the specific features of modern life are the result of the man’s attitudes. Approaching life in a certain

¹ H. Romanowska-Łakomy, *Fenomenologia ludzkiej świętości. O sakralnych możliwościach człowieka*, Warszawa 2003, p. 42.

manner, the man makes it valuable or meaningless, safe or full of threats. Thus, any changes in this aspect do not result from science or politics, but, first of all, from upbringing. Chaos can be changed into axionormative order provided that the man's own work is wisely directed towards moral good in particular aspects of his psycho-social functioning. The authors of this issue of "Studia Paedagogica Ignati-ana" are inviting the readers to reflect on this subject.

The basic part of the issue includes articles and dissertations. It begins with the text by Andrzej Ryk entitled "The Experience of the Community of People as a Source of Overcoming the Axionormative Chaos of the Modern World: Reflections from the Perspective of Dietrich von Hildebrand". On the basis of the thought of the German philosopher and Catholic theologian, the author of the article encourages us to the reflection which is important for the quality of everyday life. The man is destined to be happy. The nature of happiness is related to being in a community and it is adequate for the relational nature of human being. Therefore, a minimalist approach is caring for happiness in the subjective feeling. The man, as a being that is reasonable and able to love, may – if he wants to – overcome the egoistic understanding of one's individualism and try to make other people happy with him.

The category related to shaping the quality of everyday life is hope. It is the subject analysed by Andrzej Michał de Tchorzewski in the article entitled: "Hope – the Virtue that Improves the Quality of Life of Modern Humans". Treating hope as virtue is justified, as, since the times of ancient Greece, hope is the carrier of existential reflection on the shape of good life in the moral dimension. The pedagogy of hope specifies its place and role in the development of the man's personality. People who bring up others and those who are brought up should consciously look for hope, as it is necessary for shaping a wise life in the times of axionormative chaos.

The subject of theoretical analysis in the issue in question is reflectivity. Marzena Chrost perceives it as a challenge due to clear shortage of reflectivity in everyday life. In the article: "Reflexivity: the Challenge of the Modern World", she analysed some aspects of reflectivity and a concept referring to being reflective and unreflective, and she proved that reflectivity is an important developmental task. She invited the reader to "reflect on reflectivity", which is a good

practice of the skill necessary for the proper judgment of situations and meanings in the times characterised by the chaos of values and norms of behaviour.

The road that may take us out of the axionormative chaos leads through values. Such conviction was the basis of the text entitled “Bringing Value into the World in Times of Axionormative Chaos” written by Renata Królikiewicz. The author raised the most important question from the pedagogical point of view: How should we introduce children and youth into the world of values? She looked for replies together with her students during their diploma seminar.

An interesting perspective of looking at axionormative chaos was presented by Piotr Goniszewski in the article: “The Relativism of the Values and Norms of the Modern World from the Perspective of Biblical Philosophy”. The author compared the situation of a post-modern Christian and an ancient Jew, discussing the postmodern and Hellenistic culture on the basis of fragments of *Ecclesiastes* and the *Book of Wisdom*. As a summary, he presented a successful attempt to update the attitudes of biblical authors towards Hellenism in the context of postmodern Christianity.

A continuation of theological reflections is the article by Radosław Mazur entitled “Teaching Religion to Youths in the Axionormative Chaos of the Modern World”. The author presents two kinds of sources of chaos, he describes the concept of teaching religious education based on the analysis of catechetical documents, and he justifies the function of specific contents of catecheses for youth in the context of shaping the foundations of adolescents’ life and overcoming axionormative chaos.

Another text was placed in the section: “Case Reports”, as it is the analysis of empirical material. Iwona Jazukiewicz, in the article: “The Moral Correlates of the Approach Towards the Work of Teacher-Tutor Candidates”, justified the hypothesis which says that there is a statistically important relation between the attitude towards work, and the values and moral feelings of the surveyed people. The statistical calculations were made in the correlation model. Detailed results of the research may be the source of reflection on the axiological aspect of work, which is especially important in the jobs that require a relation with another person and a sense of responsibility for them. Such reflection is desirable in the times of axionormative chaos.

Other valuable materials that can be found in the issue are two book reviews. Krystyna Duraj-Nowakowa enumerated the advantages of the publication by Barbara Kłasińska entitled *The Technique of Pedagogy Students' Work and Study* (Kielce 2017). Edward Walewander encourages his readers to reach for the monograph by Elżbieta Orzechowska: *The Clergy of the Sandomierz Diocese in the January 1983 Uprising* (Sandomierz 2018). The issue ends with three reports from scientific conferences held in 2018. Their subject is of interdisciplinary nature and it is important from the point of view of the things discussed in this issue of the journal.

The readers of *Studia Paedagogica Ignatiana* are offered another issue the contents of which may inspire them for their own reflection or scientific discussion about the man within the context of axionormative chaos of the modern world. The authors' intention was to offer the readers some ways of overcoming the chaos. We hope that the readers will be willing to verify them in practice.