

REV. RYSZARD IWAN

REPORT ON THE SYMPOSIUM  
SOCIAL THOUGHT IN STEFAN CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI,  
PRIMATE OF POLAND

A symposium on *Social thought in Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland* was held November 18—19, 1981 at the Catholic University of Lublin, organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences. The introductory speech was delivered by Bp Bolesław Pylak, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Lublin. He thanked the newly opened Faculty of Social Sciences for taking the initiative in presenting social thought of the Primate. He also emphasized the obligations of the Faculty towards the Primate.

During the first session Professor Hanna Waśkiewicz dealt with the Primate's teaching and attitude to human rights. Cardinal Wyszyński always stressed the primacy of man and his rights as well as his social duties in social life. Professor Waśkiewicz pointed to the practical activities of the Primate in safeguarding human rights.

Professor Czesław Strzeszewski outlined philosophical and theological elements in the Primate's teaching on labour. The ethos of labour — according to Wyszyński — includes the duty and the right to labour, appropriate earnings, protection of labour, virtues connected with labour and labour policy. In all these spheres Wyszyński emphasized the importance of the dignity of labour and argued that man should not be seen as merely a source of labour and that the employer-employee relationship be regarded as one of man with his fellow man. The social character of labour is another feature which is strongly emphasized in the Primate's teaching.

A discussion, which followed the papers, concentrated on the correlation between human rights and obligations in the Cardinal's social thought. Attention was given to the right to social love so frequently mentioned by Cardinal Wyszyński. The close relationship between human rights proposals addressed to the People's Poland by Wyszyński and the workers' proposals of August, 1980 was also canvassed as well as his whole range of activities for human rights in People's Poland. Concerning labour issues, the participants emphasized the value ascribed to labour in the social teaching of the Primate. Discussion covered such problems as the dignity of labour, the Primate's attitude to the labour system in People's Poland and also the contribution made by his own labour to the common good.

During the afternoon session Dr Teresa Kukołowicz outlined the Primate's series of articles on marriage and family which appeared in the periodical „Ład Boży”. Mrs Kukołowicz dealt with topics in the series including the vision of the total development of man, marriage and the family and their relations to broader

community. She pointed to the special importance of the series, due to the fact that at the time of their publication a lay model of marriage and the family was consciously propagated in Polish post-war society.

[— — —] [Ustawa z dn. 31 VII 1981 r., O kontroli publikacji i widowisk, art. 2, pkt 6 (Dz. U. nr 20, poz. 99, zm.: 1983 Dz. U. nr 44, poz. 204)].

The next day session was opened by Mr Jerzy Turowicz who demonstrated the Primate's contribution to the pre-war Catholic academic organization „Odrodzenie” and his post-war pastoral work among the youth which was of a somewhat different nature. During that period Bishop Wyszyński intended above all to protect the youth against pernicious efforts of the alien ideology and — through the influence of his pastoral authority — to show to the young the proper line of development in accordance with the value represented by the Church and Nation.

Professor Maria Braun-Galkowska discussed the role and importance of women in martial, professional and social life as represented in the Primate's teaching. She focussed mainly on those social elements in his teaching which stressed motherhood as the most appropriate and fundamental task for women.

Reverend Professor Jan Krucina emphasized the Primate's attempts to bring about an agreement between the State and the Church in post-war Polish history. The author pointed to the impact of the Church post-Council consciousness on the evolution of the Primate's understanding of the concept of State and Church, the range of their relationships and their dialogue.

The last session was opened by Reverend Professor Józef Krukowski who presented the Cardinal's stance regarding legal normalization of the Church in Poland in the historical, doctrinal and practical contexts.

Professor Ryszard Bender, on the basis of the pastoral letters of the Lublin period, spoke on the theme of the Primate's teaching on the nation as a fundamental value, completely superior to the state and other kinds of community. He also underlined the Church's bond with the Nation and the significance of this bond to both the Nation and the Church.

A paper by Reverend Professor Józef Majka *The contribution of Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński to the development of Catholic social teaching* was presented in the form of a summary in the author's absence. Professor Majka maintains the evolution of the Primate's understanding of the concept of State and Church, the vast scope of the material, it can be generally described as integral Catholic personalism.

At the conclusion of the symposium the great richness of the Primate's social thought and its permanent significance for the nation was acknowledged.

*Translated by Andrzej Jaroszyński*