

in conducting analyses, insight into literature and Christian ethical and theological-moral tradition are worthy of praise.

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The reviewed work was released as the third volume of the series “Library of The Francis de Sales Scientific Society,” published by the Francis de Sales Scientific Society, whose main goal is academic and research work as well as educational work in the spirit of faith, benevolence and Christian humanism of the Bishop of Geneva. The book is the result of four scientific sessions organized in 2013–2016 as part of the annual Society Congress which for several years focused in its scientific research on the project “Youth and their world.” The monograph considers the reality of contemporary Polish youth from four different angles: human work, ecology, the current status of the educational system of St. John Bosco, and the changes and challenges of marriage and family in the 21st century.

The study is interdisciplinary. Multidimensional world of youth is presented from the perspective of various disciplines: theology, psychology, pedagogy, catholic social studies, history and law, by representatives of many national research facilities. Such a wide research perspective turned out necessary for two reasons. First of all, the subject of scientific reflection covered different thematic areas characterizing the specificity of contemporary youth, which required separate research methodologies. Secondly, after 1989, when the transformation of political system began in this part of Europe, Polish people found themselves in a completely new reality. This novelty was manifested in many ways, generating new challenges at different levels: anthropological,

spiritual, moral, social, cultural, educational, etc. Their correct understanding is conditioned by the interdisciplinary reflection and description.

The book was divided into 4 parts, each of which contains the texts of selected papers given during the annual FSSS scientific sessions. Articles in each part have been neatly arranged in a logical and transparent way, thus introducing the reader to new issues on the one hand, and revealing further aspects of the multidimensional world of youth on the other. The publication is preceded by the introduction prepared by the editor of the scientific monograph, Fr. Jan Niewęłowski SDB. It outlines the characteristics of the youth period and presents the figure of St. John Bosco as well as his original method of upbringing and education which is still up to date. The second part of Introduction covers genesis, concept, assumptions and aims of the research project, the result of which is the discussed monograph, and also presents the monograph's structure. Each article is preceded by a short biographical note about the author and a photography. There are not, however, any summaries of the articles and key words either in Polish or in English, the presence of which has already become a standard in this type of publication. There is also no thematic and/or personal index, which would be helpful in such a multi-faceted study. The work has been carefully edited, maintaining quite original form, uniform for the whole publishing series.

The first part of the study, entitled "Youth and their world: axiology of labour" (pp. 12–42), analyzes labour from the perspective of values, showing its cultural value in the aspect of social teaching of the Church (father Janusz Szulist) and the social value of labour in the context of professional work of men and women (Magda Urbańska). It is worth emphasizing that the basis of both values is their personalistic dimension. The world of human work is the sphere of social life in which personal dignity as well as human rights are manifested. Professional work itself is placed among the values recognized by young Poles as important. Work, along with money, health and family, is among the most important components of a successful and happy life.

The second part, entitled "Youth in the face of ecological challenges" (pp. 44–94), belongs to the area of broadly understood ecological ethics. Such clear normative–axiological profiling is visible both in the considerations of virtues and flaws in environmental education (Dominika Dzwonkowska), as well as in the presentation of the dispute over environmental ethics and its significance for ecological education (Anita Ganowicz–Baczyk). The main frame of both articles is the issue of ecological education which must become one of the educational areas in the upbringing of the youth. The approach to natural environment, both in the perspective of theology of creation and in the principles of the common good and intergenerational solidarity, is not an axiologically neutral problem. This is because a lot of daily choices we make influence the condition of natural environment and human ecology which are connected with moral responsibility. Disputes about various trends in environmental ethics or contribution of new disciplines that undertake research on natural environment, man's place in this environment and his or her relation to non-human life forms, such as ecophilosophy or environmental philosophy, confirm the importance of education and upbringing not only for the youth, but also for the whole society (Ryszard Sadowski, SDB).

The third part of the book, “St. John Bosco’s system of education” (pp. 96–129), concerns Salesian educational system whose author was father Bosco, referred to by John Paul II as “Father and teacher of Youth” and “the holy educator.” Scientific analyses contained in this part have both theoretical and historical dimension, showing the social and political context of shaping the preventive system and its main constitutive features (Jan Piskurewicz), as well as more practical dimension, pointing to the currency of pedagogical vision of the educator from Turin and the selected areas of its application: Salesian education (Zenon Latawiec SDB) and sport (Jan Niewęłowski SDB).

The last part of the monograph, “Youth in the face of marriage and family” (pp. 130–178), is a multifaceted scientific reflection on marriage and family. The starting point for this consideration concerns the revision of the most important doctrinal and canonical elements of the Christian vision of marriage, with particular regard to the teaching of Popes John Paul II and Francis; and the question of understanding the so-called irregular situations, which was subject of the fourteenth Synod of Bishops and apostolic adhortation *Amoris laetitia* (Henryk Stawniak, SDB). The development of the above issue consists in the presentation of a study carried out among the students of family studies and pedagogy, regarding the transformation of the preferred family models in the opinions of contemporary youth (Magda Urbańska). The study confirms that a change in the accepted models of the family is taking place. Marriage is replaced with unformalised relationships or lifestyle of a single person, more and more approved of by the society. The publication closes with the reminder of the cardinal August Hlond’s teaching on the subject of marriage and family, which still can be an important reference point for today’s couples and families (Stanisław Wilk SDB).

The reviewed monograph is an interesting voice of the Salesian community on the world of youth in the face of new challenges of the contemporary world. It is worth emphasizing once again the book’s interdisciplinary and universal character, for among the authors there were not only theoreticians, but also practitioners of education, Salesian and lay, following the educational ideas of father Bosco and Christian humanism of St. Francis de Sales. It is worth reading by parents, educators, pedagogues and everyone to whom children and youth upbringing is dear.

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