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Topics of interest to the conference are as follows:

A. Socio-spiritual values of the religious art: A1 – Artistic and cultural evaluation; A2 – Historic, theological and social perspectives (past and present); A3 – Religion and modern cross-cultural communication; A4 – Religion and globalization; A5 – Religion, terror and the role of cultural heritage.

B. Iconography and Iconology: B1 – Environmental impact; B2 – Analytical, diagnostic and intervention methodologies; B3 – New materials for conservation and restoration; B4 – Monitoring and scheduled maintenance.

C. Conservation, restoration and diagnostics of religious cultural heritage: C1 – Marketing of sacral sights as universal cultural heritage; C2 – Sacral

sights as new dimension of secular tourism; C3 – Sociocultural development in regions; C4 – Sacral sights as new tools of war/as tools of politics; C5 – Sacral sights and securitization discourses; C6 – Sacral sights and cultural identity.

D. Materiality and Meaning in Religious Art and Architecture: D1 – Religious media and their audience; D2 – Modern communication of world religions.

SCIENCE AND THE SERPENT WHAT EVOLUTION TELLS US ABOUT MORALITY

...
Let us begin with a very simple, perhaps even childish example. Consider a cake cut into two unequal pieces offered to two persons. Let us stipulate that the moral thing is clearly for the first person to choose the smaller piece. Imagine two scenarios in which this person fails to do the moral thing. In the first scenario he takes the bigger piece and leaves the smaller one to the second chooser. The second scenario also begins with the person choosing first taking the larger piece, but then he grabs the smaller piece and throws it in the trash, because he does not want the second person to have anything. Both scenarios describe moral failure. The central argument of

this paper is that there is a difference in kind, not just in degree between these two types of moral failure. We will later deal with more complex contemporary examples. Several observations can be made about the difference between the two scenarios. First, example two seems on the face of it the more serious moral failure. I will later argue, however, that this does not always mark the distinction at the core of my argument. It may be usually the case, but I will suggest that sometimes moral failures with very serious consequences can be more like the first scenario rather than the second. A second, more important difference concerns intelligibility. Everyone can probably

understand a person who takes the bigger piece of cake even when the other person is hungrier. Even if we do not approve, the behaviour is intelligible as an act of egoism. Until we have more information about the actor, we do not know whether he is habitually greedy or whether this was a momentary lapse of moral judgment, but neither alternative poses any problem for understanding.

[...more at](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE ATTITUDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POLAND TOWARDS THE CURRENT MIGRATION CRISIS	1	STORYTELLING IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL BRAND DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL BRAND CONSTRUCTION IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF SYMBOLIC CONSCIENCE	129
FORGIVENESS IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE	15	RELIGIOUS ANTHROPOLOGY OF EASTERN (GREEK-BYZANTINE) PATRISTICS	145
FAMILY NURSING: A CALLING OF THE FUTURE	25	CITIZENSHIP, FAMILY, LOW SELF-CONTROL, RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE AND DELINQUENCY	157
MEN AND STONES: A LANDMARK IN MIRCEA ELIADE'S LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS WORK	39	ERIUGENA AND FICHTE: VERA PHILOSOPHIA EST VERA RELIGIO	167
APPEAL TO FAITH (ARGUMENTUM AD FIDEM) AS AN ELEMENT OF THE CONTEXTUAL SCIENTIFIC SUBSTANTIATION IN PEDAGOGY AND THE ATTRIBUTE OF THE RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEW	49	PERSON VERSUS INDIVIDUAL FROM THE RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE IN A GLOBALISED AND MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY	179
ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA AS THREATS TO TRADITIONAL FAMILY: A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY ON SLOVAKIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	61	THE ELITE SARMATIAN WOMAN'S BURIAL	189
CIVIC VIRTUES AND FUNCTIONS OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC LIFE	75	BOOK REVIEW: LINES OF DEFENCE: FORTIFICATION DRAWINGS OF THE BAROQUE AGE AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA	197
SCOPE OF ONTOLOGY IN THEOLOGICAL ISSUES: THE PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY OF JOHN MACQUARRIE	85		
SCIENCE AND THE SERPENT: WHAT EVOLUTION TELLS US ABOUT MORALITY	95		
RELIGIOUS AND SYMBOLIC MEANING OF KAZAKH POPULAR BELIEFS AND TABOOS	107		
THE 'TRUE RELIGION' AND THE PHILOSOPHICAL GOD OF SPINOZA	117		

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THE ATTITUDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POLAND TOWARDS THE CURRENT MIGRATION CRISIS
Abstract: The migration crisis caused many serious consequences in European countries. It became a reason of political conflicts, social cleavages as well as intensive disputes conducted especially in mass and social media. Uncontrolled wave of migrants was a subject of many, very often aggressive discussions in the Visegrad countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia). Because of the significance as well as ethical and emotional dimensions of the issue of migration crisis the Catholic Church in Poland has taken part in the discourse dedicated to this matter. The Church through the declarations of bishops and the Polish Episcopal Conference clearly expresses opinion that Catholics are of a moral obligation to help refugees and immigrants. This stance refers to the teaching of Pope Francis and his predecessors, particularly Pope John Paul II. It is also deeply rooted in the personalistic ethics which underlines supremacy of the each person with its dignity and its inalienable rights, including the right to life, to any reason of state or national interest. At the same time this official stance of the Catholic Church and Polish episcopate is not commonly acceptable by lower clergy and believers whose opinions are very often similar to statements of right-wing radicals denying the principles of Christianity as well as European system of values.

FORGIVENESS IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS FROM THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Abstract: Forgiveness, defined as the process of forgiving others' mistakes in order to achieve internal peace or correction of the guilty person's performance, is considered to be one of the important subjects in interpersonal relationships. Since determining the boundaries of forgiveness significantly contributes to the psychological well-being of the society members, studying this matter from different views can provide a basis for presenting a balanced model. The aim of this research was to explain Islam's perspective on these components as well as the boundaries of forgiveness in interpersonal relationships. This study was a qualitative research in which after explaining the conceptual scope of forgiveness according to psychologists, some Quranic verses and words of Islamic leaders about forgiveness were analysed. At the end of the study, it was concluded that although Islamic and Western teachings for identifying factors affecting forgiveness are similar in the perspective, but Islamic references have drawn more distinct boundaries for forgiveness.

FAMILY NURSING A CALLING OF THE FUTURE

Abstract: The aim of the article is to make the reader aware of the idea of family nursing and to present a variety of the manifestation of family nursing towards ill people in a family, society, and a parish, with special emphasis on its mission and timeless character. As a result of the reform of the health care system in Poland, family care is more and more often becoming a subject of nursing practice. It concerns mostly those systems where the burden of care was transferred to medical services performed outside the hospital. The duties of family nurses are as various as the environments, patients and places of their service. This all influenced the problem of nursing in the scope of historical and contemporary approach. The focus of the article was placed especially on the problem of family nursing, which, in the scope of care system, includes a family and an ill person in their home, in a society or in a parish. This postulate was based on the example of nursing theory and practice by Hanna Chrzanowska. Materials from scientific journals, academic textbooks and thematic sources on family and home nursing formed the basis of this article.

MEN AND STONES A LANDMARK IN MIRCEA ELIADE'S LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS WORK

Abstract: In this study I briefly present the contents of the play „Men and stones“, in order to explain to what extent it expresses a landmark in the evolution of the Mircea Eliade's thought. This play confirms Eliade's confession: that, on the one hand, the theoretical work cannot influence consciously and voluntarily the literary activity, but that on the other hand the literary act of the literary creation may reveal certain theoretical meanings. Certainly, for the historian of religions and the former professor at the University of Chicago, literature is a myth. Any story in which phantasms express a situation that tends to become paradigmatic - and there is no literary product, however insignificant, in which life has not been immobilized in a pattern - is a myth. The fact that one can no longer establish a connection with the ritual life of a community is the only difference between the literary myth and the religious myth. Taking this conviction, I subscribe to the idea that the analysis of literary texts from a religious point of view can constitute a serious „bridge“ of dialogue between Theology and the modern world.

APPEAL TO FAITH (ARGUMENTUM AD FIDEM) AS AN ELEMENT OF THE CONTEXTUAL SCIENTIFIC SUBSTANTIATION IN PEDAGOGY AND THE ATTRIBUTE OF THE RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEW

Abstract: In the modern humanitarian and pedagogical scientific worldview, the religious and purely scientific format of the knowledge content and methods of its production are either unreasonably opposed or are identified for several significant reasons, but none of the above extreme points of view is logically and substantively sound. This complicates the fruitful development of the pedagogical research methodology and perplexes the very content of Pedagogy. Therefore, the concept of „faith“ is analysed in this article. The article shows the similarities as well as a significant difference of the attributes dogmatically communicated to the believer's mind that are related to the world order and moral behaviour along with conscious pedagogy of trust and humanity. The analysis is underlain by the opposition of the religious faith and a varying degree of confidence of the teacher, who conducts research, in the conclusions and results of his/her own research project or one submitted by someone for reflection, including: a) confidence in the statistical results of the assessment of samples that show the distribution of certain parameters of the educational environment or the student; b) confidence in the correct application of the theoretical confirmation of the conclusion proposed; c) confidence in the opinions of the expert scholars in the field of Pedagogy, Psychology, and Philosophy of education and in the academic traditions of presenting the content of Pedagogy and methods of pedagogical knowledge.

ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA AS THREATS TO TRADITIONAL FAMILY A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY ON SLOVAKIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Abstract: The article deals with the phenomena of abortion and euthanasia against the background of the environment of traditional family in Slovakia and Eastern Europe. Current interpretations and ethical evaluations of both phenomena are analysed from various complementary angles allowing space for liberal as well as conservative views. The complexity of relationships between abortion and euthanasia on one side and family environment on the other, require a comprehensive approach that will integrate new findings from Medicine, Biology, Psychology as well as competent assessments from scholars in Ethics, Theology and Philosophy. Implications of existing trends pertaining to the analysed phenomena are far reaching, affecting subjective values (value judgments), established social norms, family structures, and overall atmosphere in society. Besides outlining the present situation, this study offers preliminary recommendations directed to preserving the values, structures, and institutions that have been conducive to social stability and overall wellbeing in the society.

CIVIC VIRTUES AND FUNCTIONS OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC LIFE

Abstract: The article belongs to the area of theory of citizenship since it deals with the virtues and factors needed for working of liberal democracy. It pays special attention to the place and functions of religion in public life. In the first part the authors explain the importance of civic virtues for working of democracy. They especially stress the importance of civility, capacity to object the centres of power, and virtue of public reason which they call also a dialogic virtue. In the second part, they present some constraints concerning the place of religion in public life. Despite these constraints they argue that total exclusion of religious beliefs from public debate is wrong. They agree with the exclu-



sivists that religious beliefs and reasons must not be used for justification but they allege several other functions that they may and should perform in public discussion. Therefore they refuse extreme exclusivism and defend moderate exclusivism.

SCOPE OF ONTOLOGY IN THEOLOGICAL ISSUES THE PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY OF JOHN MACQUARRIE

Abstract: According to English theologian John Macquarrie, the main target of Theology is to clarify foundations of religious belief. While realizing this conception Macquarrie meets difficulties, which enforce him turn to conceptual philosophical analysis. Concept of Being is key to both Philosophy and Theology, so it becomes the core of Macquarrie's meditations. As a result emerges original ontological theory, going back to Martin Heidegger's ontology and Rudolf Bultman's theological principles. Our intention is to demonstrate that Macquarrie's attempts to build a theological ontology go beyond Christian dogmas and therefore do not fulfil his mission. In this paper, we apply the hermeneutical approach to the analysis of philosophical, theological, and religious texts, which makes it possible to fully reveal the meaning of the fundamental categories (Being, God) in one sphere (Philosophy) through understanding their connection with other spheres (religion, Theology). It is shown that in John Macquarrie's symbolic theology, the connection between God and man acquires an ontological character, but the „Living God“ is replaced by an abstraction. According to Macquarrie „god“ manifests its pagan connotations overcoming the denominational confession. This work demonstrates that the Christian interpretation of Being is different from Heidegger's paganism, suggesting the rejection and transformation of things existent, their additional determinateness and the symbolic revelation of sacred being in human existence.

SCIENCE AND THE SERPENT WHAT EVOLUTION TELLS US ABOUT MORALITY

Abstract: Humans are moral beings, uniquely among earthly life. The only reason we are aware of this is that sometimes we do not act morally. It is therefore a central aspect of being human to try to account for moral failure. I argue that, given what we know today about the genealogy of Homo sapiens, that moral failure has two conceptually separable roots. One is due to our evolutionary heritage. Conflicts that call for making a choice can arise in higher animals as well as humans. But in humans moral responsibility can attach to some choices, and a person may fail to make the correct one. This kind of imperfection must be distinguished from purposely choosing evil. Sometimes a wrong choice is not just lack of wisdom; sometimes we chose with malice. And we therefore have to consider two separable aspects of moral failure. As long as all moral failure is ascribed to a single source or event, for example the Fall from Paradise, this kind of distinction is obscured. Recognizing that there are two separable aspects of moral failure enables us to distinguish between imperfections and evil. Denying this distinction tends to trivialize evil. That all of us are subject to occasional failures does not suspend our ability of moral judgment, nor the obligation to exercise it when called for. If moral failure would automatically put us all on the same footing, it would lead to moral paralysis. Trying to prevent this is what gives the distinction that I advocate here its importance and urgency.

RELIGIOUS AND SYMBOLIC MEANING OF KAZAKH POPULAR BELIEFS AND TABOOS

Abstract: This article presents the concepts of popular belief and taboo, their essence and meaning, and examines as well the historiography of the problem. It identifies the religious and mythological connotations of these concepts, analyses their historical origins and focuses on the religious and symbolic content of some Kazakh popular beliefs and taboos. Such issues, as motherhood, childbirth and infancy, are highlighted in particular. The authors conclude that in the life of the Kazakh people, for centuries, systems of popular beliefs and taboos have been shaped, which are widely reflected in their everyday life, customs, and traditions. For a long time, they remained living and were passed through the generations. The article reports that some changes in the meaning of these popular beliefs and taboos have occurred at present and the scope of their application has been narrowed.

THE 'TRUE RELIGION' AND THE PHILOSOPHICAL GOD OF SPINOZA

Abstract: Spinoza's notion of „God“ is examined in the article through prisms of: (i) criticism of religious consciousness in „Theological-Political Treatise“, (ii) theory of affects developed in „Ethics“, and (iii) Spinoza's comments on language. Philosophy and religion are completely different in their foundations and goals. Spinoza argued therefore, there can be nothing in common between the religious and philosophical concepts of God except the word „God“. Behind this religious name, Spinoza has a logical-mathematical concept of infinity, which serves as the „most perfect method“ of knowing the nature of things. The article examines the purpose for which Spinoza used the word „God“ along with the philosophical terms „substance“ and „Nature“ and how his philosophical God differs from the gods of religions. The authors show that Spinoza's language strategy gave rise to discrepancies and made it difficult to understand the text, but it helped transform Spinozism into the mainstream of Modernity.

STORYTELLING IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL BRAND DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL BRAND CONSTRUCTION IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF SYMBOLIC CONSCIENCE

Abstract: With the development of digital communication, storytelling is gaining increased importance in communication generally and in the construction and development of brands especially – whether it is organization brand or product or personal brand. The experience of telling stories is essential to the human mode of being in the world, due to its mythical, spiritual and religious resources. Using stories in the brand communication causes a symbolic transfer taking place both in terms of attributing personal qualities to an organization and of a symbolic integration of organizational virtues in the personal brand identity construction. An important role pertains to consumer experiences that may contribute own stories to the improvement or consolidation of the image of organization or personal brands. Likewise, one should valorise stories' significance to the individual and to his/her personal development in the personal brand construction process. Regarding the fundamental stories construed by human beings we have stopped to the significance of love and love stories in the personal brand development. They are relevant to the way the story may function as a catalyst of branding and of commercial brand or personal brand communication. Also, storytelling proves its relevance in the perspective of an enlarged rationality, as part of the brand recognition process instrumented by emotions and rational processes in a symbolic conscience, privileging and valorising the significance of the buyer's feelings and of the attachment to the brand chosen from all offers existing on the market.

RELIGIOUS ANTHROPOLOGY OF EASTERN (GREEK-BYZANTINE) PATRISTICS

Abstract: The article is dedicated to reviewing the understanding of an individual found in the works of the Eastern Patristics' representatives at the times of Trinity and Christology disputes occurring in the Byzantine Empire from the 4th till 7th century. Also presented are the ideas of some of the earlier Church Fathers who, during the period of the apologetics of Christianity, laid the foundations of the early Medieval Christian anthropology. The author analyses the provisions of the Greek-Byzantine thinkers on the purpose of Man in his personal relationship with God, shows the Patristics' justification of the Old Testament understanding of an individual in his „image“ and „likeness“ of God. Special attention is paid to the study of the teachings of the Eastern Church Fathers revealing the contradictory essence of each individual, consisting of the confrontation of the soul (spirit) and body. The principle of antinomianism is derived as the

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main method of comprehension of human nature in relation to the Creator. The ideas of „deification” and „salvation” are designed as basic categories, outlining the cherished goal and the righteous path for a person who directs his thoughts to self-improvement, self- knowledge and comprehension of God, and the achievement of spiritual unity with Him. The article is based on the analysis of primary sources – texts of the Church Fathers of Greek-Byzantine Christianity.

CITIZENSHIP, FAMILY, LOW SELF-CONTROL, RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE AND DELINQUENCY

Abstract: This study aims at examining the relationship between citizenship, family situation, low self-control, religious attendance and delinquency among Qatari high school students. A sample of 1733 students was selected from all 7 administrative areas. Schools were randomly selected. A questionnaire with several scales was developed and used as a research tool. A positive significant relationship was found between citizenship and family ties (0.149), family support (0.174), health (0.141), and family attachment (0.076). However, a negative significant relationship was found between citizenship and delinquency (-0.134), coercive parenting (-0.089), gender (-0.127). More importantly, a negative significant relationship was found between citizenship and general delinquency (-0.134) (imprudent behaviour -0.22, crime -0.092, public disturbance -0.126, school delinquency -0.079). Delinquency was significantly correlated with low self-control (0.22) and religious attendance (-0.229). All variables explained together around 25% of the variance on the general delinquency. A significant effect was found for all variables together on delinquency ($F = 13.732, \alpha = 0.000$). Moreover, citizenship, coercive parenting, family ties, low self-control, religious attendance, mother’s work and health have a uniquely significant contribution to the variance on the delinquency.

ERIUGENA AND FICHTE VERA PHILOSOPHIA EST VERA RELIGIO

Abstract: The authors analyse Eriugena’s speculations. These have the typical features of scholasticism, which would be finally established in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Additionally, some of the principles in Eriugena’s teaching anticipate German classical philosophy, particularly the idealism of Fichte. Fichte’s critical realistic idealism is a type of ontotheology with an egological structure. It addresses the problems of the antecedent synthetic perception. As a result of considering the philosophical concepts of Eriugena and Fichte, the authors have established that Eriugena’s ontotheology and pantheism, as its intrinsic principle, and also his doctrine on the division of nature (or God) strongly correlate with the postulates of Fichte’s egology.

PERSON VERSUS INDIVIDUAL FROM THE RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE IN A GLOBALISED AND MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETY

Abstract: The human person, created by God with love, represents the central element of the Creation. By relating to the personal God in Christianity, the person is defined as capable of dialogue and love on the horizontal axis toward the fellow men, and also on the vertical axis toward God. The globalization and its effects aim to transpose the human person in a system in which the dignity of the person with all its valences disappear, so the man remains a simple individual, characterised by a limitation that do not overcome the sensorial world. The unique religion lacking God, proposed by the secular society as unifying everything, is, in fact, the desacralisation of all that is sanctifying, the loss of the identity of the human person, and its implicit transformation in a simple element of the society.

THE ELITE SARMATIAN WOMAN’S BURIAL

Abstract: This article is devoted to the study of a burial ground located in the area of Zholayshagyl (Kazakhstan). The authors describe the findings of excavations conducted in 2006 and conclude, based on their analysis, that this burial ground was the tomb of a woman, a representative of the Sarmatians. An in-depth study of the burial ground is carried out, and in particular, the clothes of the woman and her jewellery are investigated. The article also analyses data on the resettlement of the Sarmatians in Kazakhstan, and the characteristics of their life and burial culture, in particular.

BOOK REVIEW: Lines of defence: fortification drawings of the Baroque Age at the National Library of Malta

In 2015, the International Institute for Baroque Studies in collaboration with Malta Libraries published its magnum opus ‘Lines of Defence: Fortification Drawings of the Baroque Age at the National Library of Malta’. This work is edited by three academics of the Institute, namely Denis De Lucca (Director), Stephen Spiteri (a leading scholar in the field of historical research focused on fortress building) and Hermann Bonnici (an architect whose specialisation is the conservation/restoration of Malta’s fortifications). Albeit the publication’s main forward was penned by Juanito Camilleri (Rector of the University of Malta at the time of publication), one also finds an informal one by Oliver Mamo (the National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries at the time of publication) followed by a general introduction to the collection of drawings housed at the National Library of Malta (NLM) by Maroma Camilleri (Senior Librarian at the NLM).