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Ad lectores

It has by now become customary for us, something of a tradition, to publish a monographic issue on a Biblical theme, with articles provided by the international group of exegetes of the Gospels, *Gruppo Internazionale di Studio Esegetico sui Vangeli* (GISEV). Professor Jorge Humberto Morales Ríos of our University's Theology Faculty is a member of that distinguished team.

As a matter of fact, already in the final issue of our 2011 volume, Professor Morales published a study on the subject of the Father, considered in the perspective of Christ's Resurrection as the culmination of St. Mark's Gospel. It was by way of concluding a series of articles, contributed that year to *Antonianum* by his fellow GISEV members. This series comprised also contributions by Professors Luis Sanchez Navarro, of the San Damaso Theology Faculty of Madrid, and Salvador Villota Herrero, of the Valencia Theology Faculty, furthering the study of the explicit references to God in St. Mark's Gospels; likewise by Professor Artur Malina, of The University of Silesia of Katowice, reviewing the Paterology (theology of the Father) implicit in the same Gospel. This entire series of articles was well introduced by the renowned Professor Klemens Stock, of the Pontifical Biblical Institute. It was he who, over a number of years, ably led the collegial endeavour of these scholars.

Then, in 2013, thanks to the cooperation of Professor Stock, so capably mediated by our own Professor Morales, *Antonianum* is able to plan for an actual monographic issue, dedicated to the the theme: *God the Father in the Gospels of Luke and John*. This becomes the second issue of that same year. On this occasion, Professor Villota Herrero takes on the study of the relationship, the closest possible, between the Father and the Son in St. Luke's Gospel. Professor Morales deals there with the narrative function and the theological meaning of the Paterology expounded in the early chapters of the Third Gospel. The filial trust expressed in Jesus's prayer to the Father is then explored by Professor Malina. Professor Sanchez Navarro studies the full explicitation of the Gospel's Paterology in the final chapters of St. Luke's Gospel, while Professor Malina returns to compare Jesus's witnessing to the Father in St. John's Gospel and in the Synoptic

tradition. Finally, Professors Navarro and Morales, respectively, reflect on the category on witnessing and on the believer's role with regard to the relationship between the Father and the Son.

Introducing the present monographic issue prepared by GISEV, which considers the theme of anthropology, is no longer Professor Stock, to whom we renew our gratitude for the honour he did our journal, but Professor Artur Malina. We wish to express our appreciation to him, and to each one of the other distinguished contributors, for sharing the fruits of this further direction their work has taken. Do allow me, too, to thank most particularly our own Professor Morales, who has earned the merit of bringing about this strengthening of the cooperation between *Antonianum* and GISEV.

The anthropological theme of this new offering by this team of scholars is in continuity with the Paterological focus of the previous series of articles.

If indeed God the Father is – as He is – the source and origin of the Word, the intended hearer is the human being, called to receive the Word. As affirmed in Professor Malina's introduction, the Paterology and the anthropology of the first books of the New Testament have become central subjects of the studies being carried out by Biblical scholars in different European academic environments. Close attention is, therefore, called for.

We take this occasion to express our very best wishes to all colleagues, as we near the Paschal feast in this special Jubilee Year of Mercy.

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