Ad lectores

This issue of *Antonianum periodicum trimestre* hosts a set of seven articles addressing key anthropological issues at the crossroad of natural sciences, philosophical and theological anthropology:

- Lluís Oviedo, OFM: *The theology of the person in the light of recent scientific developments: rethinking the* imago Dei (in Italian);
- Ivan Colagè: *Culture between the sciences and theology: Towards an integral and interdisciplinary anthropology* (in English);
- Paolo D'Ambrosio: *From gene-culture co-evolution towards an assessment of the uniqueness of human evolution* (in English);
- Gennaro Auletta: *Humanity is a trans-specific self-transcendent genus* (in English);
- Nicola Gobbi, SJ and Giorgio Bonnaccorso, OSB: *Action and narrativeness: A Searlian intentionalist account for individual and social-religious identity* (in English);
- Xavier Calpe, OFM: *The formal reason of Incarnation: Deiformity and Christogenesis* (in Spanish);
- Vincenzo Battaglia, OFM: *The mystery of man in the light of Trinitarian Christocentrism: Fundamental tenets* (in Italian).

The set of papers stems from a Research Seminar organized at the Pontifical University Antonianum on March 19th-21st, 2015. This event is part of the activities within the framework of a research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation, which begun at the Antonianum during April 2013 and will formally close on January the 15th, 2016. The Research Seminar at the basis of the articles gathered in the following was on the topic of "Incarnation and *imago Dei*" and saw presentations by Ivan Colagè and Lluís Oviedo, Xavier Calpe, and Vincenzo Battaglia.

The mentioned research project – focused on the issue of "Human Specificity" and addressing it from a broad interdisciplinary perspective including natural sciences, philosophy and theology – has framed other Research Seminars, many of which about more scientific topics discussed with the involvement of different internationally acknowledge scientists. Another Research Seminar, however, deserves being mentioned here: the one held on September 25th-27th, 2014 on the issue of "The

Human Specificity: Evolution, Neuroscience and Theology". Giorgio Bonaccorso offered a talk (on *The 'emancipated species'*) in this occasion and the paper by him and Nicola Gobbi stemmed from this occasion. This also shows how the ongoing research tries to articulate several aspects of the fundamental and complex anthropological question.

This trajectory of research on the theological implications of an interdisciplinary approach to "Human Specificity" will also see a further event before the close of the project. The event is scheduled, always at the Antonianum, on December 10th-12th, 2015, about the topic "Becoming integral human persons: in dialogue between theological and anthropological sciences". The speakers at this event will be: Vincenzo Battaglia, Calogero Caltagirone, Ivan Colagè, Cettina Militello, and Marco Nobile. This event will surely prompt additional reflections on the topics addressed in the set of papers presented in this issue, hopefully resulting in future publications.

It is my duty and great pleasure to thank Professors Ivan Colagè and Lluís Oviedo, of our Faculties of Philosophy and of Theology, respectively, for their expertise, spirit of initiative and collegial sensibility, abundantly demonstrated in directing the seminar that was made possible by the grant from the John Templeton Foundation. I am likewise indebted to the same two colleagues, Professors Ivan Colagè and Lluís Oviedo, for the dedication and care shown in preparing for publication the contributions that make up this issue. Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish colleagues at other universities and research institutes, too, and all our readers, a blessed Christmas and New Year.

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