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Editorial

We are pleased to present the latest issue of *Perspectives on Culture*, dedicated to the theme of dialogue among cultures. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the passing of Father Stanisław Musiał, an eminent advocate of interreligious dialogue and a distinguished member of the Jesuit order in the latter half of the 20th century. Father Stanisław Musiał SJ (1938–2004) was esteemed not only as a proponent of interfaith dialogue but also as a pioneer in advancing Christian-Jewish and Polish-Jewish discourse. This commemorative milestone provides an exceptional opportunity to examine Christian-Jewish dialogue from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

The current thematic issue of *Perspectives on Culture*, entitled “Synagogue and Ecclesia: Past, Present, Future,” emerges in part from a symposium convened alongside the conferral of the Stanisław Musiał, S.J., Prize. Throughout the symposium, we engaged in profound deliberations on the intricate relationships between the Synagogue and the Church. Is the Church the new Synagogue? Does the theology of supersessionism retain contemporary relevance? Can one simultaneously embrace Jewish and Christian identities? Perhaps it is essential to be Jewish to authentically follow Jesus of Nazareth? Is the Church the new Israel, and what, therefore, is the status of the “old” Israel? What is the current state of Jewish-Catholic relations? These questions guided our exploration of the multifaceted dynamics between Judaism and Christianity.

The Jewish community and the community of Christ’s followers have coexisted for two millennia, a history often marked by difficulties and tensions. This shared historical experience invites a profound reflection on the concept of truth and the multifaceted nature of Christian-Jewish relations.

This volume comprises a collection of articles that reflect on the complex and often challenging relations between Judaism and Christianity over the span of two millennia. The volume opens with an article “Father

Stanisław Musiał SJ (1938–2004): A Remembrance on the 20th Anniversary of His Death,” authored by Stanisław Cieślak, S.J. This piece, grounded in historical sources, meticulously reconstructs Fr. Musiał’s life and work, presenting in detail the various stages of his life and the historical context that significantly influenced his mental condition and spiritual formation.

Katarzyna Kowalska’s article explores the concepts of Synagogue and Ecclesia as metaphors for the historical relations between Judaism and Christianity. Her analysis delves into the history of Christian-Jewish relations, often marked by difficulties and tensions. Andrzej Tarchała addresses the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, concluding that early Jewish-Christian interactions were characterized by both similarities and differences between the two religious traditions. The interactions between Judaism and Christianity as religious systems, as well as between Jews and Christians as adherents of these faiths, were shaped by historical connections and interactions. Proponents of Jewish-Christian dialogue have undoubtedly contributed to and continue to promote a spirit of dialogue and cooperation between the adherents of both religions.

In his article “Jewish Fidelity to the Name of God as a Challenge for Christians,” Marek Kita discusses the awareness of the commonality between Judaism and Christianity in affirming the Decalogue, and the contrast between Christian theology of the Incarnation and the Jewish emphasis on transcendence.

In her article, Anna Grzywa explores the perception of Christian and Jewish traditions, with a focus on how Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, depicts the chosen people and their relations with Christianity in his letters. Her analysis concerns the Jewish people, Ambrose’s stance towards Jews within the context of contemporary events, and the relationship between ecclesiastical and secular authorities.

Lukasz Sroka examines the historical conditions and diplomatic relations between Israel and Central European countries, with a particular focus on Poland. His analysis reveals how the interconnectedness and enduring impact of past processes and events shape contemporary realities, highlighting both the burdens and significant potential for further dialogue.

The second part of the issue comprises a collection of articles offering more personal reflections.. Krzysztof Homa, in his article “Meeting Our Brothers,” recalls the *Dabru Emet* declaration, which outlines the Jewish perspective on Christians and the expectations for dialogue. He shares his experiences of meeting our Jewish brothers in various parts of Europe and reflects on how Stanisław Musiał was perceived there, inquiring why so many different people wish to remember him.

Janusz Poniewierski also examines *Dabru Emet*, while Stanisław Krajewski reviews various categories of Christian-Jewish dialogue that have been ongoing in Poland for years, presenting the attitudes of different communities towards this issue. The second part of this volume concludes with a reflection by Rabbi Abraham Skorka on the state of Christian-Jewish dialogue in 2024.

This edition of *Perspectives on Culture* does not exhaust the topic of Catholic-Jewish dialogue but serves as both a reminder and an encouragement to continue this ongoing journey. Dialogue is a process centered around the Logos, which each party comprehends and experiences in distinct ways. For Christians, the Logos is identified with Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah who is expected to return to judge the living and the dead. For Jews, the Logos represents the Messiah prophesied by the prophets, whose arrival they await. While our commonalities are profound and potentially encompass the entirety of our shared human experience, it is our inherent human limitations that create barriers to achieving complete understanding and perfect love.

Perspectives on Culture offers a range of insights into dialogue as a patient and humble quest for understanding and truth. Both Jews and Christians pursue this truth together, with the belief that it can liberate them from prejudices and constraints. We encourage you to engage in this dialogue and to continue exploring this essential and dynamic exchange.

Paulina Winiarska – holds a Master’s degree in Political Consulting and Communication from Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu – National Louis University in Nowy Sącz and a Bachelor of Arts from National Louis University in Chicago, earned in 2010. She completed her Ph.D. in Philosophy at the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow in 2019. Her scholarly work includes numerous publications on communication theory, the philosophy of communication, and axiology. Her 2022 monograph, published by the scientific publishing house of the Ignatianum University, provides a pioneering study of the communication concept in the thought of American cultural theorist Calvin O. Schrag, marking the first such work in Europe. Doctor Winiarska is currently an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Cultural Studies and Journalism at the Faculty of Philosophy at Ignatianum University in Cracow. She also serves as the Director of the Center for Culture and Dialogue there.

Krzysztof Homa – an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Cultural Studies and Journalism at Ignatianum University in Cracow. His research focuses on the history of early Christianity, particularly the works of Arnobius of Sicca, the origins of Christianity in Greece, and Jesuit culture. His notable publications include: *Arnobiusz. Afrykański orator* (2017);

Arnobiusz, Księga I–II Adversus Nationes (2019); *Jezuiccy misjonarze na pograniczach. O. Tadeusz Kuczyński i O. Jan Urban* (2021; co-authored); *Misteria w V księdze Arnobiusza z Sicca* (2020); *Polonica greckie. Korespondencja z o. Tadeuszem Kuczyńskim (1830–1856)* (2019); *Polscy jezuici na ziemiach greckich od XVI do XX wieku* (2021); *Ślady kultury chrześcijańskiej w Achai do 313 roku* (2023).