

DEAR READER

We are pleased to present you a new issue by STV.

As all over the world we have been experiencing a tough time since the pandemic started, we have decided to dedicate this issue to the theme which combines both the COVID and the Church, namely we present some interesting articles on missions in the pandemic.

Here you can find seven articles by scholars from several parts of the world and thus you are able to find out how so called COVID situation is seen and experienced worldwide.

In the first one, its author discusses a very important thesis, saying that during the global pandemic of coronavirus disease and the initially very pragmatic aid and support projects, responsibility for social cooperation became the decisive marker for personal and institutional authority.

In the next one, the author proves that fraternity can help to foster dialogue at all levels, so that our societies and communities, even if they are more and more fragmented – what creates dangerous polarizations as it is seen in politics and social life, can face a danger of dehumanisation caused by isolation.

The third one attempts to present the mission of the Neocatechumenal Way at the time of Covid-19. The author states that a kind of experience in the pandemic was to realise what a great grace it is to live in small Christian communities. Although they were not given the opportunity to go to church to celebrate the Word and the Eucharist, what they learned in the Neocatechumenal Way enabled them to live in the Domestic Church.

The author of the fourth article starts with a statement that during various lockdowns it was repeated that Coronavirus was something like a catalyst or even an accelerant of dechurching or secularisation and then answers such questions as: “Are they interpreted primarily as a loss or as a challenge?” or “What exactly are we afraid of losing?”

The fifth article is an inspiring discussion about those who do not know the future of the Church. This article leads us to more theological theme which is known as “Negative Ecclesiology”.

Last but one article depicts the pandemic and post-pandemic situation in Germany, giving us an insight into the course of the pandemic there, the role the Church in months of pandemic has been playing, and moreover, into the challenges of missions in so called post-pandemic times.

In the last one, the author formulates two theses. Thesis 1. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the leading missionary journals carried out the press functions they were established for – confirmed, albeit mainly in terms of news-publicity, fundraising and organisational functions.

Thesis 2. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the leading missionary magazines reported on the pandemic situation in mission areas and publicised the social campaigns that were being conducted then- confirmed, although some titles did that more than others.